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

Summary

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/46COM/documents>

All previous state of conservation reports will be available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Decision required: The World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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

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CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

1. Butrint (Albania) (C 570ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1997-2005

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/570/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1996-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 106,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/570/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1999: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/Butrint Foundation mission; 2001: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; 2003: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; 2005: World Heritage Centre /ICOMOS/ICCROM mission; 2007: World Heritage/ICOMOS/ICCROM joint mission; 2022 joint World Heritage/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient management mechanisms
- Illegal constructions
- Slow progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the joint missions (Issue resolved)
- Tourism development

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/570/>

Current conservation issues

On 4 October 2023, the World Heritage Centre invited the State Party of Albania to submit a report on the state of conservation following information received from third parties on new construction and tourist facilities in the World Heritage property, with supporting visual evidence, as well as the findings of the joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory Mission to the World Heritage property from 26-28 October 2022, on the vulnerability of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and confirmation of the removal of 600 ha from the National Park, which had not been notified to the World Heritage Centre and represented a change in the protection regime of a sensitive part of the buffer zone of the property.

On 4 March 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/570/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The State Party provides a response to the Committee's previous decision on the state of conservation of the property in 2009 (Decision **33 COM 7B.86**) and to the recommendations of the 2007 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM and the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory missions, including the Integrated Management Plan of the Butrint National Park 2020-2030 (IMP) and progress reports on the state of conservation of the property in 2011 and 2015 on the recommendations of the 2007 mission;

- Steps are being taken to implement the IMP. Management of sections of the property is being transferred to the Butrint Management Foundation (BMF), an independent NGO established through a Cooperation Agreement between the then Ministry of Culture, now restructured as the Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation (MECI), and the Albanian-American Development Foundation;
- Work is underway to ensure that the MECI will have oversight of the entire World Heritage property after the management of the areas, collectively referred to as Area A3, is transferred to the BMF by October 2024;
- The Butrint Research Group was established in 2022 and members were appointed in 2023;
- A local team of experts has been appointed to oversee the management of the property. This will be expanded and a budget for training has been approved by the Board of Directors for 2024;
- A map of the property and buffer zone is being prepared for submission to the World Heritage Centre;
- In response to the recommendations of the 2022 mission, terms of reference have been prepared to undertake various management studies, including on community engagement and development, new interpretation of the Triangular Castle, new interpretation of the Venetian Castle on the Acropolis, and an update of the IMP Action Plan and Conservation Plan. The BMF is ready to undertake urgent conservation work to be carried out following the update of the Action Plan;
- Technical meetings have begun to prepare a detailed Action Plan with a timeframe for implementing the recommendation of the 2022 mission;
- The cultural heritage assets (movable and immovable) in the Butrint Archaeological Park and the Archaeological Museum of Butrint have been inventoried and included in the National Register of Cultural Properties;
- The BMF is in the process of organising a series of missions and meetings necessary to obtain input from the Advisory Bodies;
- For the proposed Visitors' Centre, a two-component design has been selected following an international design competition. A methodology, work plan, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and archaeological assessment have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The HIA is considered a 'working' document that will be updated following public consultation. The timeframe for the HIA has been adjusted, following recommendations from ICOMOS. Further ICOMOS recommendations will be taken into account in the development of the project.

The World Heritage Centre has been informed by third parties that the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania is considering the request by a group of members of the Parliament of Albania to repeal the 2022 Law 'On the adoption of Agreement on the Administration of the sub-zones of Cultural Heritage and Cultural Landscape of Butrint National Park', entered between the then Ministry of Culture and the Butrint Management Foundation, as being incompatible with the Constitution. On 4 October and on 13 December 2023, the World Heritage Centre transmitted to the State Party third party information on this case pending before the Supreme Court and on new construction and tourist facilities in the World Heritage property. At the time of writing, the State Party has not responded to these letters.

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

The State Party reports that it is taking steps to improve the management of the property. The establishment of the various bodies and organisations required to implement the IMP's is welcome. The IMP includes the establishment of the BMF and its future management of area A3 after a transitional period. It is unfortunate that this process may result in a fragmented management environment, as A3 sections do not cover the entire property. This should be avoided at all costs. Considering that the IMP has been approved by the Council of Ministers in 2020 and that the transition period has ended, the Committee may invite the State Party to undertake a mid-term review of its implementation based on its monitoring framework.

The State Party's confirmation that it is working towards ensuring that the MECI will retain an oversight role of the entire World Heritage property is therefore welcome. The clarification of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone is urgent, especially in this context. Urgent clarifications are required of

how the sections of the property not covered by the designation A3 and administered by the BMF will be managed and of how the conservation of attributes in these areas will be resourced. It is regrettable that the clarification of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, expected since 15 February 2023 as part of the retrospective inventory, is still pending. This is particularly urgent in the current context, given that the 2022 mission confirmed that in January 2022, approximately 600 ha were withdrawn from the National Park near Ksamil, where a tourist residential complex was under construction at the time, and that this land lies within the buffer zone of the property as approved in 2007, and that a small part of the property may also have been breached. The current protective regulations and designated uses of all areas of the National Park need to be clarified in relation to the protection of the property and the function of its buffer zone.

Community engagement should also remain a priority and the development of the Community Engagement and Development plan should continue. The updating of the Conservation Plan and Action Plan is welcomed, as is the willingness of the BMF to implement the Action Plan and the urgent restoration work required. These updated plans should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review to ensure that they are commensurate with the State Party's commitments to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Progress is reported on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 mission. It would be appropriate for the Committee to request the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the mission to further the property's conservation and management.

Specifically, the further development of plans and tools based on pre-defined terms of reference is welcomed, but care should be taken to ensure that the further development of plans and tools should have the maintenance of the property's OUV as the primary aim and should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Several development projects are planned for implementation in the property and its vicinity. The design for the Visitor Centre and associated documents and studies have been reviewed by ICOMOS, which has recommended that a full HIA, including the landscape dimension, needs to be developed to assess the impact of the proposal on the OUV of the property. This requires further diverse and thorough archaeological investigations, more time to conduct an assessment, and clarity on how the architectural project will be amended in response to outcomes of the technical review processes by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party' stated commitment to implement these recommendations and to ensure that the project is appropriate for the maintenance of the property's OUV is welcomed in this regard. The Committee may wish to request that a process of engagement continue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to ensure that the project is consistent with the maintenance of the property's OUV. Details of any other development projects that may affect the OUV of the property, such as those for the Triangular Castle and the Venetian Castle on the Acropolis, should be assessed through independent HIAs and details should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before decisions are made about their implementation.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **33 COM 7B.86** and **38 COM 8E**, adopted at its 33rd (Sevilla, 2009) and 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes the submission of progress reports on the state of conservation in 2011 and 2015 as well as the completion, submission and first steps of the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan of the Butrint National Park 2020-2030 (IMP), and invites the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a mid-term evaluation of its implementation;*

4. Welcomes the engagement of the State Party with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the development of project proposals for projects in the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, as well as the undertaking of detailed scientific studies, such as impact assessments as a prerequisite for development projects and activities planned for implementation within or around the property;
5. Also welcomes the progress made towards the development of conservation and management tools, including a Community Engagement and Development Plan, and requests that the State Party ensure that these tools place the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as a primary aim and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Further welcomes the progress made towards the updating of the Conservation Plan and the Action Plan and the readiness of the Butrint Management Foundation (BMF) to implement the Action Plan in the areas under its supervision, and also requests the State Party to submit both plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Welcomes furthermore the progress made towards developing a detailed Action Plan with a timeframe to implement the recommendations of the 2022 mission, and further requests the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre and to implement fully the recommendations of the mission;
8. Also notes that the transition of the management of the sections of the property categorised as A3 to the BMF will soon be completed, welcomes the ongoing work to ensure that the newly created Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation (MECI) retains oversight of the entire World Heritage property, stresses that in order to achieve effective management and accountability, the World Heritage property and its buffer zone need to be managed in a coordinated manner and as a whole, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide clarifications to the World Heritage Centre on the current protective regulations and designated uses for all zones of the National Park in relation to the protection of the World Heritage property and the function of its buffer zone, and on how the different management regimes will be harmonised and equally resourced to avoid fragmentation in management;
9. Regrets that the clarification of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone is still pending and urges the State Party to submit, as a matter of priority, a clear and accurate map showing the World Heritage property boundary and the buffer zone boundary to the World Heritage Centre for review;
10. Further notes that ICOMOS has prepared a technical review of the Visitor's Centre project and the related documentation submitted by the State Party, and requests the State Party to fully implement its recommendations, including allowing sufficient time to prepare a full Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) to assess the impact of the proposal on the OUV of the property, which should, amongst others, be based on diverse and thorough archaeological investigations, include the landscape dimension, and allow more time for the assessment to be conducted;
11. Requests moreover that the State Party continue to submit details of projects that may affect the OUV of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are taken on their implementation, and that projects be implemented only after agreement has been reached on their alignment with the maintenance of the OUV of the property;

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, including a detailed Action Plan with a timeframe for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2002-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 80,416

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,367,014 is provided by the Albanian Government within the framework of the project 933 ALB 4000 "Safeguarding and restoration of selected monuments within the World Heritage site of the Old City of Gjirokastra – Albania"

Previous monitoring missions

November 2012: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission;

December 2021: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (planned by-pass road project and conversion of the bazaar into a pedestrian area in Gjirokastra)
- Housing
- Illegal activities (illegal construction dating from the late 1990s and later on)
- High impact research/monitoring activities (lack of specific monitoring indicators)
- Governance (lack of a detailed tourism development plan and lack of an archaeological excavations programme)
- Management activities (e.g. restoration work at the Berat Castle)
- Management System/Management Plan
- Other factors (lack of adequate firefighting arrangements in the historic urban zones)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/documents/>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented as follows:

- Under the 'Revitalization Bonus', an annual initiative of the then Ministry of Culture, 12 restoration projects were implemented and 14 are underway in the Historic Centre of Gjirokastra and its buffer zone, while 16 restoration projects are underway in the Historic Centre of Berat and its buffer zone;
- Two separate plans for the preservation, protection and administration of the Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra and their buffer zones were approved in December 2023;

- The Integrated Management Plan (IMP) has not been completed due to several changes at management and technical staff levels, and a current lack of human resources and expertise. The State Party foresees to request a meeting with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to discuss the way forward. Once finalised, the IMP will be legally binding;
- The development of a comprehensive long-term development strategy for the property, including tourism management, was considered in the preparation of the draft IMP;
- The State Party has communicated to its public institutions and interested stakeholders in and outside the cultural heritage system the importance of conducting Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and the publication of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and has requested the urgent submission of HIAs for all ongoing projects within the Project for Integrated Urban and Tourism Development (PIUTD);
- The State Party requests to be informed of capacity-building activities on HIA procedures and methodologies;
- Several PIUTD projects have been completed and others are ongoing in Berat and Gjirokastra;
- A full independent HIA, which should include a landscape study of the valley, will be undertaken for the completed Gjirokastra bypass road;
- The mobility plan and the bypass road in Gjirokastra do not overlap, but the State Party will follow up with the Albanian Development Fund to include the road in the mobility plan under development;
- In order to limit the occurrence of illegal construction, the plans for the preservation, protection and administration of the Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra and their buffer zones prohibit new construction affecting cultural monuments and their buffer zones, as well as construction of an industrial nature, with the exception of handicraft workshops in the buffer zone. Illegal constructions are dealt with in accordance with the law;
- Maintenance was undertaken, including at the Gjirokastra Castle, where the National Folklore Festival was held.

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

The progress made in improving the state of conservation and protection of the property through the Revitalization Bonus initiative and in upgrading urban regulations through the approval by the Council of Ministers of two separate plans for the ‘preservation, protection and administration’ of the Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra and their buffer zones is welcomed. However, in a Technical Review, ICOMOS stressed the importance of clarifying the interlinkages between the yet to be finalised IMP and the plans. ICOMOS noted the importance of ensuring that all planning and management instruments work together to protect and maintain the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) by clarifying the differences between the previous regulations and the plans, ensuring specific reference to the OUV throughout, and specifying which policies are appropriate for the maintenance, future use and development of the property. A change of pace and increased commitment by all actors concerned, from the State Party to the municipal level, would be required to ensure that an adequate system of protection and management is in place. In addition, the State Party has not reported any progress in the development of an integrated urban conservation and development tool, which would also contribute to the diversification of the development plans for the property, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **45 COM 7B.51**. It is recommended that the integrated urban conservation and development tool be developed in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation).

The provisions contained in the two aforementioned plans, including the prohibition of both new construction that may affect the cultural monuments and their surroundings and construction of an industrial nature in the buffer zones of the property, are welcomed. The Committee may nevertheless wish to encourage the State Party to continue its efforts to limit illegal construction activities in the property.

It is regrettable that the IMP could not be finalised following the International Assistance provided by the World Heritage Fund, with technical assistance provided by ICOMOS and ICCROM between March and June 2023. The State Party should be urged to prepare an updated draft IMP as a matter of urgency, taking into account the comments and recommendations already provided by the Advisory Bodies, and with the active involvement of the local authorities of Berat and Gjirokastra. Further assistance from the

World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in finalising the IMP should be based on a draft IMP updated on the basis of previous assistance.

It is also regrettable that the construction of the Gjirokastra bypass road has now been completed without an HIA being submitted to the World Heritage Centre as requested by the Committee. Consequently, opportunities for mitigation measures to avoid adverse impact on the OUV of the property are no longer feasible. The State Party should urgently complete an HIA of the Gjirokastra bypass road for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The adverse individual and cumulative impacts of the Gjirokastra bypass road and various development projects, including those of the PIUTD, on the OUV of the property have not been comprehensively assessed. A long-term vision for the development of the entire property, as requested in the previous decision of the Committee, has not been developed. Therefore, the Committee may wish to request to the State Party to undertake an integrated HIA that would assess the impact of the numerous infrastructure and development projects within or in the wider setting of the property, including individual ongoing PIUTD projects, both individually and cumulatively, against the state of conservation, integrity and authenticity of the property at the time of its inscription.

Neither sufficient nor substantial progress has been reported on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2021 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission. The State Party should be urged to fully implement these, with particular attention to those highlighted in the Committee's previous decision.

The details of development projects that may have an impact on the property's OUV have not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. Therefore, the Committee may wish to reiterate its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, details of the development projects that may have an impact on the property's OUV.

Draft Decision 46 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.75**, **41 COM 7B.40**, **43 COM 7B.79**, **44 COM 7B.151** and **45 COM 7B.51** adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's commitment to upgrade urban planning regulations for both the Berat and Gjirokastra components of the property, requests the State Party to clarify the interlinkages between the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the separate plans for the 'preservation, protection and administration' to:*
 - a) *Ensure that all planning and management instruments work together to protect and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,*
 - b) *Harmonise the differences between the former regulations and the plans, and*
 - c) *Make specific reference in the plans to the OUV and its attributes;*
4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop an integrated urban conservation and development tool and to diversify its development plans for the property to stimulate a broad, resilient economic base for its future and recommends that it be developed in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation);*

5. Notes with regret that, despite its previous requests, the State Party has not fully implemented the project for the development of the IMP for the property in cooperation with the governmental and civil sectors, funded through international assistance provided by the World Heritage Fund, urges the State Party to further update the IMP as a matter of priority taking into account the comments and recommendations already made by the Advisory Bodies and actively involving the local authorities of Berat and Gjirokastra, and also requests the State Party to submit a pre-final draft to serve as a basis for any further assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Further notes with regret the completion of the construction of the Gjirokastra bypass road without having implemented the requests of the Committee, and therefore further requests the State Party to urgently complete a full independent Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Gjirokastra bypass road, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to undertake an integrated HIA to assess the impact of the numerous infrastructure and development projects within or in the wider setting of the property, including individual ongoing projects within the Project for Integrated Urban and Tourism Development (PIUTD), both individually and cumulatively, against the state of conservation, integrity and authenticity of the property at the time of its inscription, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Notes with concern that the recommendations of the 2021 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission have not been implemented, and reiterates its request to the State Party to implement these in full;
9. Also notes with concern that details of all development projects that may affect the OUV of the property have not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reiterates its request to the State Party to:
 - a) Submit the project details to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any irreversible approval or decision, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and
 - b) Commission HIAs focusing on the OUV of the property in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and carried out in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and recalls that such documents, or at least their executive summaries, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in one of the working languages of the Committee;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to continue its efforts to limit the occurrence of illegal construction activities in the property;
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 the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

3. Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment) (Austria, Germany, Slovakia) (C 1608rev)

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 N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1608/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1608/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Flooding (need to develop flood prevention or flood management measures)
- Need to develop clear and consistent approach to reconstruction works
- Need to introduce regulations in relation to wind farms or other infrastructure projects

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1608/>

Current conservation issues

On 4 December 2023, the States Parties submitted a joint report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1608/documents/>. The report addresses the recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property in 2021, as follows:

- Details are provided on the establishment of national and transnational management systems for the property in the three States Parties and on the first meeting of its International Management Group (IMG), supported by a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB);
- Proposals to establish buffer zones for the components which do not have one, have been submitted as minor boundary modifications by 1 February 2024, with the exception of two components in Austria – Oberranna (a justification is provided for leaving the boundaries as they are) and Albing (the boundaries will be reviewed and modified following the completion of the geophysical survey in 2024);
- The IMG has commissioned the SAB to lead research and provide documentation on the Roman course(s) of the River Danube. The IMG has established a working group to develop guidelines for a defined approach to reconstruction works for all components, as these are halted in the property until a common approach agreed by ICOMOS and the States Parties is in place;
- With regard to deep ploughing, in all three States Parties the control of extensive agriculture is only possible on a voluntary basis. In Austria and Germany, initiatives are underway to purchase or lease land in order to withdraw parts of the property from destructive agricultural use;
- In terms of working with the relevant water and river authorities to develop flood prevention/management measures, in each State Party the management body of the property is involved in the planning process as a public body or is in close contact with the planning authorities;
- The SAB has commenced the development of a research framework for the property. It is estimated that the first phase (resource assessment) of this process will take two to three years;

- With regard to the identification and location of temporary camps, details of the survey and documentation at Iza are provided. All identified temporary camps have appropriate legal protection as archaeological sites;
- Targeted re-excavations are not possible at Eining-Weinberg due to sensitive natural habitat at this location. At St Peter's Church, the results of the geophysical survey are currently being evaluated;
- With regard to wind turbines around Carnuntum, a survey was carried out and it was concluded that wind turbines located in or in the immediate vicinity of the buffer zone to the south of this component, as well as visually intrusive, isolated wind turbines, will be removed at the end of their life cycle and new turbines will be located at a greater distance from the property. It has also been decided that no renewable energy facilities (wind and solar) will be installed between the component parts and the River Danube, and between Carnuntum and Bad Deutsch Altenburg;
- Details are provided of the measures taken by the respective site managers to strengthen outreach and community engagement on more components of the property;
- The need to conduct Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) will be discussed at the level of the transnational management group, based on the findings of the regular monitoring activities.

On 13 December 2022, the States Parties submitted an adjusted nomination to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Decision **44 COM 8B.24**.

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

Progress has been made on several of the Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription. Nevertheless, further follow-up by the States Parties is required to fully address them. The information on the establishment of national and international management systems for the property is well noted, as is the establishment of the SAB to support the work of the IMG on research issues. It would be helpful to clarify whether the SAB includes members from the other two States Parties in addition to experts from Austria. A key element of the SAB work programme is the establishment of a common database. This is essential to underpin the management of the property and specifically its research framework, of which the documentation of the Roman course(s) of the River Danube will be an important element.

The States Parties have submitted to the World Heritage Centre a request for minor boundary modifications to establish buffer zones for a small number of components (see Document WHC/24/46.COM/8B.Add), and it is anticipated that a similar request will follow for the Albing component.

The halting of further reconstruction work pending an agreed approach by the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and the three States Parties, is to be welcomed, as is the establishment by the IMG of a working group to develop guidelines for a defined approach to reconstruction work. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee request the submission of draft guidelines to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to finalisation.

Noting the information provided on deep ploughing, the Committee may wish to encourage the States Parties to develop a systematic and proactive approach as part of the management system of the property, promoting legal and policy mechanisms to prevent deep ploughing of the sensitive archaeological features or any other potentially damaging agricultural activities.

With regard to flood prevention and management measures, in line with its previous recommendation, the Committee should call for the strengthening of coordinated management with the relevant water and river authorities to develop integrated management plans for the property at national and transnational levels, including disaster risk assessment, prevention and management measures to control the flow of the Danube and to prevent or manage flooding of components and their settings.

With regard to the wind turbines around Carnuntum, the Committee's recommendations appear to have been followed. Nevertheless, it is not clear whether a HIA has been carried out for the extension of the existing wind park outside the southern part of the buffer zone of the component in order to avoid any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Furthermore, the Committee may wish to remind the States Parties of its recommendation to introduce regulations to ensure that the landscape setting of other components is not compromised by new renewable energy installations or other infrastructure projects.

The States Parties should also be requested to develop appropriate legal frameworks to ensure that impact assessment processes are carried out in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for all projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property and that these are systematically reported to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.24**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),*
3. *Welcomes the submission of a minor boundary modification request to the World Heritage Centre for the establishment of buffer zones for a small number of components, and requests that a buffer zone also be established for the component part at Albing (1608-rev038) by also submitting a further minor boundary modification request to the World Heritage Centre;*
4. *Takes note of the progress made by the States Parties and also requests them to continue to address the issues identified at the time of inscription, including by:*
 - a) *Clarifying whether all States Parties are members of the Scientific Advisory Board, establishing a common database and further developing the research framework and making its outcomes available to all the relevant stakeholders,*
 - b) *Continuing to work on the preparation of a clear and consistent approach to reconstruction works for all component parts and submitting this approach as a draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its finalisation,*
 - c) *Developing and adopting a proactive long-term strategy, promoting legal and policy mechanisms as appropriate, to allow all component parts and their buffer zones to be excluded from ploughing and other potentially harmful agricultural activities,*
 - d) *Strengthening coordinated management with the relevant water and river authorities to develop integrated management plans for the property at national and transnational levels, including disaster risk assessment, prevention and management measures for controlling the flow of the Danube and preventing or managing flooding of components and their settings,*
 - e) *Continuing to survey and document the entire ensemble of temporary camps as an archaeological landscape,*
 - f) *Clarifying whether a Heritage Impact Assessment has been carried out for the extension of the existing wind park outside the southern part of the buffer zone of the Carnuntum component to avoid any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and introduce regulations to ensure that the landscape setting of other component parts is not compromised by new renewable energy infrastructure or other infrastructure projects,*
 - g) *Continuing to enhance outreach and community engagement across all component parts of the property,*
 - h) *Ensuring that appropriate legal frameworks are in place to allow Impact Assessments, prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to be routinely used to assess the*

impact of proposed changes that may impact on component parts or their settings, and ensure that all projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. *Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2025, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

4. Fertö / Neusiedlersee Cultural Landscape (Austria, Hungary) (C 772rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/772/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/772/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the component in Austria; May 2013: joint ICOMOS/IUCN Advisory mission to the component in Austria; October 2023: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/Ramsar Secretariat Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Large-scale heart clinic development (issue resolved)
- Climate change and severe weather events (progressive water shortage)
- Housing
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Renewable energy facilities (wind farms)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/772/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/Ramsar Secretariat Advisory mission visited the property in October 2023 (mission report available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/772/documents/>).

On 31 January 2024, the States Parties submitted a joint state of conservation report, the summary of which is available at the above-mentioned web address. The report provides information on the measures implemented by the States Parties in response to Decision **45 COM 7B.52**, as follows:

- The new Management Plan should be finalised and approved imminently. The implementation of the measures set out in the new Management Plan will be a priority for World Heritage management in Hungary and Austria: this includes the revision of the 'Criteria for Building in World Heritage' (Austria) and the re-establishment of the cross-border 'Consultative Council';
- Further bilateral cooperation was agreed upon, to develop a vision for the future of the property and to establish a joint strategy, including for tourism infrastructure and management, so as to

ensure a sustainable and equitable use of the property consistent with the objectives of protecting and preserving its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

- Construction of the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project was suspended at the end of 2022 in order to review the entire project. On 24 October 2023, the Ministry of Construction and Transport of Hungary launched a public procurement for the redesign of the project with a reduced scale, improved sustainability and a more regional architectural profile. However, there are insufficient funds for the public procurement, which has to be repeated for technical reasons. No construction activity is expected in 2024; only the northern part will be partially opened. The State Party refers to the Complex World Heritage Impact Assessment, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and the Natura 2000 Assessment submitted in 2022 to support the conclusion that the said project, even in its original concept, would not have a negative impact on the OUV of the property. At the same time, the State Party asserts that future design and construction works within the project will be carried out in compliance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and the recommendations of the Advisory mission;
- Apart from the ongoing redevelopment of the lakeside resorts of Fertőrákos and Breitenbrunn, there are currently no additional plans for further infrastructure development in or around Lake Fertő/Neusiedl. An assessment of existing and potential cumulative impacts should be examined before any further development takes place;
- With regard to a proposed possible water supply from the Danube to the Seewinkel-region to protect and preserve the soda pans, and with regard to a possible further water supply to Lake Fertő/Neusiedl, the report emphasises that all required investigations and modelling should be carried out before any irreversible measures are taken. It stresses that all the optional solutions should be subject to transboundary EIAs;
- The Federal State of Burgenland (Austria) is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Advisory mission on further development projects. However, the State Party emphasises the adoption of a provincial strategy to accelerate the expansion of the renewable energy. The expansion of wind power systems will continue, while ensuring that it is consistent with the protection and preservation of the OUV of the property.

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

The achievement of a joint Management Plan for the property is to be welcomed, as is the agreement of the States Parties to strengthen their cooperation to develop a vision for the future of the property consistent with the maintenance of its OUV.

The 2023 mission advised that the updated Management Plan would benefit from being augmented to address current weaknesses and achieve better coordination of the management of the transboundary property. In addition, implementation of the Management Plan will require strengthened transboundary cooperation and additional resources from both States Parties.

The forthcoming revision of the 'Criteria for Building in World Heritage' developed by the Lake Neusiedl World Heritage Association (Austria) is to be welcomed. The revised document, with clear provisions for impact assessments based on the potential of developments to adversely impact the OUV, should be given legal weight in the planning system, to ensure the maintenance and transmission of the property's OUV.

In view of the increasing tourism pressure, the 2023 mission concluded that the scale and extent of the lake-side tourism infrastructure in the property has reached the maximum capacity that the property can carry and therefore no further expansion should be allowed in the future. Instead, the focus should be on renewing or rehabilitating the existing infrastructure while correcting past interventions that were not in keeping with the World Heritage status. It is recommended that the States Parties jointly undertake an inventory of all existing and planned tourism facilities along the lakeshore, together with an assessment of the cumulative adverse impacts on the attributes underlying the property's OUV.

It is regrettable that the public procurement for the redesign of the Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project was launched by the State Party of Hungary on 24 October 2023, without awaiting the recommendations of the 2023 mission. While it is noted that the public procurement has to be repeated for technical reasons, it is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party of Hungary to follow the recommendations of the 2023 mission to redesign the project, to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the redesigned project in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in

a World Heritage Context and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

The commitment of the States Parties to continue to investigate possible water supplies – to Lake Fertő/Neusiedl and to preserve the soda pans in its vicinity – and to ensure that all optional solutions are subject to appropriate impact assessments is welcome. Both States Parties need to be encouraged to conduct scientific research within the framework of the Austro-Hungarian Water Commission in order to address knowledge gaps and to pursue a long-term, cooperative approach to establishing an appropriate transboundary governance system for water supply.

The mission found that the proposed repowering of the Neusiedl-Weiden and Gols wind parks will prolong the existing negative visual impact of the wind farms on the OUV of the property. Therefore, the State Party of Austria should seek ways to mitigate these negative impacts. Overall, the existing processes for wind repowering need to be strengthened to better safeguard the property's OUV. In particular, the visual setting of the property should be better protected, as the wider landscape contributes significantly to its OUV. The mission advised the State Party of Austria not to proceed with the project for a new hospital outside the town Gols at the proposed location, on the boundary of the buffer zone and within the visual setting of the property, as this would have a negative impact on the property's OUV. It also advised the State Party of Austria to undertake a thorough assessment of the buffer zone and to consider submitting an enlarged buffer zone boundary through the Minor Boundary Modification process. Furthermore, a framework for assessing the visual impact of wind turbines needs to be developed based on an inventory of the spatial and landscape attributes underlying the property's OUV.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.52** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Welcomes the strengthened cooperation of the States Parties in the protection and management of the transboundary property, commends their efforts in finalising the updated joint Management Plan, and also welcomes their decision to develop a vision for the future of the property and to establish a joint strategy, including a strategy for tourism infrastructure and management, to ensure a sustainable and equitable use of the property consistent with its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Expresses concern at the findings of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ Ramsar Secretariat Advisory mission to the property in 2023, which indicate that the current management system does not adequately protect the cultural landscape and that the property is affected by a number of factors, including urban development and sprawl, large visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure, lack of protection of urban centres, changes in the functions of buildings, renewable energy facilities (repowering of wind turbines in the component in Austria);*
5. *Endorses the recommendations of the 2023 mission and calls on the States Parties to implement them in order to strengthen the protection of the property's OUV;*
6. *Invites the States Parties to jointly undertake an inventory of all existing and planned tourism facilities along the lakeshore, together with an assessment of their cumulative adverse impacts on the attributes underlying the property's OUV, and to submit the results of the assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*

7. Requests the State Party of Hungary to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment of a redesigned Sopron Fertő Lake Resort project in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and to submit it, together with a detailed project document, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
8. Acknowledges the need to maintain renewable energy infrastructure in the Federal State of Burgenland, but considers that the repowering of wind farms in the setting of the property prolongs the existing negative impact of wind farms on the OUV of the property, and therefore advises the State Party of Austria to:
 - a) Develop a framework for assessing the visual impact of wind turbines based on an inventory of the spatial and landscape attributes underlying the property's OUV,
 - b) Strengthen the protection of the visual setting of the property, taking into account the significant contribution of the wider landscape setting to its OUV,
 - c) Seek opportunities to mitigate the negative impacts of existing wind turbines when repowering the wind farms,
 - d) Carry out impact assessments for all wind energy projects in the visual setting of the property, using the above-mentioned Guidance and the Guidance for Wind Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context;
9. Notes that the protection of the visual setting of the property by its current buffer zone is very limited, and further advises the State Party of Austria to:
 - a) Investigate alternative locations for the proposed hospital outside the town Gols, which, if constructed in its current location, would have a negative impact on the OUV of the property,
 - b) Undertake a thorough assessment of the buffer zone and consider submitting an enlarged buffer zone boundary through the Minor Boundary Modification process;
10. Further welcomes the decision of the States Parties to continue to investigate the potential interventions to increase the water supply to the lake and to preserve the soda pans in the area, and to ensure that all the optional solutions are subject to transboundary Environmental Impact Assessments, and encourages the States Parties to engage in a careful and sustained consultation process on possible solutions, including with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the Ramsar Secretariat;
11. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

5. Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai (Belgium) (C 1009)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1009/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1009/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors affecting the property in 2024:

- Management systems / management plan
- Buildings and development (interpretative and visitation facilities)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1009/>

Current conservation issues

Since the end of 2019, the World Heritage Centre received information from third parties and been notified by the State Party of three projects that have a significant impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property:

- The first project was the plan for the redevelopment of the Scheldt Crossing at Tournai, including the transformation of the Pont des Trous, located in the wider setting of the property and within the buffer zone of the Tournai component of the 'Belfries of Belgium and France'. This project involved the destruction of the three arches of the medieval 'Pont des Trous' bridge (which was damaged in the Second World War and rebuilt immediately afterwards), followed by a modern, adapted reconstruction. Works commenced in 2019 and the bridge was rebuilt with an enlarged central arch and reduced side arches;
- The second project, the SMART Centre (now 'Carré Jansen'), adjacent to the 'Notre-Dame Cathedral', involved the conversion of four historic buildings and the construction of a new structure with a panoramic terrace on top in the courtyard between the buildings;
- The third project, notified by the State Party, is the planned restoration and extension of the Fine Arts Museum (Musée des Beaux Arts) in Tournai, designed by Victor Horta.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS (which provided Technical Reviews of the information and documentation submitted) expressed their concerns about all three projects in exchanges with the State Party. However, these concerns persisted and given the lack of opportunity for active dialogue between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS during the planning phases, the World Heritage Centre requested on 19 October 2023 that the State Party submit a report on the state of conservation of the property by 1 February 2024.

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted the requested state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1009/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The 'Pont des Trous' was inaugurated on 14 April 2023. Detailed information concerning the deconstruction and reconstruction is attached to the report;

- The restoration of the Notre-Dame Cathedral is in progress. Work on the Romanesque elements has been completed and the Gothic elements (including the choir) will be restored over a period of several years;
- The 'Carré Jansen' project was conceived as part of the restoration project of the Notre-Dame Cathedral and aims to revitalise the area around it, including the refurbishment and reuse of the former priests' building complex, which has been abandoned for a long time. The project also includes the construction of a footbridge to provide a direct connection to the gallery of the Cathedral. The report is accompanied by an impact assessment;
- Future steps for the restoration of the Cathedral, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
- Information on the refurbishment of the Musée des Beaux Arts, which will include the construction of a three-storey tower to provide visitors with a view of the city and its monuments. Its impact on the cathedral and the belfry is considered minimal or slightly positive. The municipal authorities have decided to postpone the project until the next legislative period (2025).

A Technical Review by ICOMOS on the information and updates on the 'Pont des Trouis' and the 'Carré Jansen' projects, included in the State Party's submitted report, was transmitted to the State Party on 16 May 2024.

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

ICOMOS, in its Technical Review of April 2024, considered that the destruction of the Pont des Trouis in 1940 and its reconstruction in 1946 was an important episode in the recent history of Tournai, and that its post-war reconstruction had a strong symbolic meaning which has been lost with the recent deconstruction and reconstruction. In addition, ICOMOS considered that this project irreversibly damaged the unified vision of the main medieval monuments in the urban symbolism of Tournai, and that the reconstruction was an inadequate remedy to compensate for the negative impact of the demolition on the integrity of the property, as well as on the Tournai Belfry. The Committee may therefore wish to state that the project has resulted in a negative impact on the historical integrity of Tournai, which is inextricably linked to the integrity of the property and the Tournai component of the 'Belfries of Belgium and France'.

The 'Carré Jansen' project is already underway, despite the advice from the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS that it should be halted and modified to avoid negative impacts on the Cathedral and Tournai Belfry. In its most recent Technical Review, ICOMOS noted that the proposed new footbridge is intended to re-establish a former link created in the 18th century between the Hôtel des Anciens Prêtres and the Cathedral, and also to maintain public access to the Cathedral while it is being restored. Nevertheless, the infill of the courtyard of the building complex adjacent to the Cathedral and its planned panoramic terrace, which will create a vertical element in competition with the Cathedral, are considered to have a negative impact on the OUV of the property, distorting the historic urban fabric and altering a consolidated balance between the Cathedral, the Belfry and the historic urban components of the city. It is regrettable that the State Party did not consider alternatives and did not engage in dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies during the planning process, which commenced in 2014. In view of the historical role of the Cathedral and the Belfry for Tournai and their inseparable connection with its historic centre, the State Party should be reminded of the importance of both the buffer zone and the wider setting of World Heritage properties in their role of supporting the protection and preservation of their OUV and should be requested to halt the implementation of this project and reconsider its revision as a mitigation measure in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The Musée des Beaux Arts is located in the wider setting of the Cathedral and within the buffer zone of the Tournai component of the 'Belfries of Belgium and France', and its refurbishment is timely and justified. However, the proposed extension represents a significant change to its original design as well as to the historic urban fabric of Tournai. In a Technical Review of August 2022, ICOMOS considered that the impact assessment prepared for the project had shortcomings, and that the proposal, if implemented, would result in a negative impact on the integrity of the World Heritage properties in Tournai. The State Party should therefore be encouraged to revise the impact assessment to ensure that it is prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and that it includes the potential impact of the planned high-rise addition on the OUV of the property and that of the 'Belfries of Belgium and France'. The revised impact assessment will need to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and the State Party should be invited to engage in dialogue with them to discuss alternative solutions.

The three projects, each in a different way, constitute irreversible alterations to the historic fabric of Tournai and pose a cumulative threat to the preservation of the OUV of the property and the 'Belfries of Belgium and France'. The fact that all three projects received approval from the competent authorities indicates that the supporting role of the buffer zone and the wider setting of the property in maintaining its OUV is not adequately considered in the protection and management system. The State Party should therefore be requested to undertake a thorough identification of the attributes that convey the OUV of the World Heritage properties in Tournai, strengthen the regulatory system for the protection of their buffer zone and wider setting, fully align the planning and management framework of the properties with the objective of protecting and preserving their OUV, develop a joint management plan for the two World Heritage properties in Tournai, use impact assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context from the early stages of project planning to avoid or mitigate inappropriate proposals, and extend the buffer zone of the 'Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai' property to align it with the larger buffer zone of the Tournai component of the 'Belfries of Belgium and France'.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **24 COM X.C.1** adopted at its 24th (Cairns, 2000) session,*
3. *Regrets that, in deconstructing and reconstructing the Pont des Trous, the State Party did not fully consider the symbolic importance of the bridge in the recent history of Tournai, and considers that the project has resulted in a negative impact on the historical integrity of Tournai, which forms the setting of the World Heritage property 'Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai' and buffer zone of the Tournai component of the World Heritage property 'Belfries of Belgium and France';*
4. *Notes with concern the 'Carré Jansen' project being implemented in the buffer zone of the Tournai component of the 'Belfries of Belgium and France' and directly adjacent the 'Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai', the current design of which will have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of these properties, and therefore requests the State Party to halt its implementation and to review the project design in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;*
5. *Acknowledges the need for the refurbishment of the Musée des Beaux Arts in Tournai in the wider setting of the Tournai component of the World Heritage property 'Belfries of Belgium and France' and the World Heritage property 'Notre-Dame Cathedral in Tournai', but with regard to its extension, also requests the State Party to revise the impact assessment of the project in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including the potential impact of the planned high-rise addition, to submit the revised Heritage Impact Assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS, and encourages the State Party to engage in dialogue with them to discuss alternatives to the project;*
6. *Considers also that the three above-mentioned projects, each in a different way, constitute irreversible alterations to the historic fabric of Tournai and pose a cumulative threat to the preservation of the OUV of the property, and of the Tournai component of the World Heritage property 'Belfries of Belgium and France';*
7. *Reminds the State Party of the additional layer of protection provided to World Heritage properties by their buffer zones and the supportive role of a property's wider setting in*

ensuring the maintenance of all aspects of its OUV, as set out in Paragraph 112 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Further requests the State Party to:

- a) *Undertake a thorough identification of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property and of the Tournai component of the 'Belfries of Belgium and France',*
- b) *Strengthen the regulatory system for the protection of their buffer zones and wider settings,*
- c) *Fully align the planning and management framework of the properties with the objective of protecting and preserving their OUV,*
- d) *Develop a joint management plan for the two World Heritage properties in Tournai,*
- e) *Use from the early project planning stages impact assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,*
- f) *Extend the buffer zone of the 'Notre-Dame Cathedral de Tournai' to align it with the buffer zone of the Tournai component of the World Heritage property 'Belfries of Belgium and France';*

9. Also reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of its 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 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;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

6. Le Havre, the City rebuilt by Auguste Perret (France) (C 1181)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

8. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 800 million HUF (ca. 2.7 million EUR) EU support for the “Street of Culture” project

Previous monitoring missions

March 2005: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; November 2007, February 2018: ICOMOS Advisory missions; February 2013, April 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Large scale reconstruction
- Building heights and regulations
- Demolition and inappropriate development in the buffer zone known as the ‘Jewish Quarter’
- Inappropriate use of public areas and street amenities
- Lack of conservation of residential housing in the area inscribed as World Heritage
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure (increased traffic volume)
- Management Plan Systems/Management Plan
- Legal framework
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Housing

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/400/documents>. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report, as follows:

- In May 2023, the National Heritage Protection and Development Non-profit Ltd. organisation was appointed as the management body for the property. It will be responsible for finalising the Management Plan;
- There is commitment to revive ICOMOS advisory assistance for the overall management and development of the property, which started in Spring 2022. It is considered that the first two online sessions began an important dialogue on the attributes underlying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and further sessions could allow dialogue on the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) and the concerns of the Committee;
- Two international meetings – the ‘V4 Heritage Academy Summer University’ and the ‘World Heritage Volunteers Project’ – were organised on the challenges of World Heritage conservation and management, with a particular focus on the issue of reconstruction;

- A brochure, produced by the developer, was submitted outlining the ‘entire Programme’ of the NHP, including the work undertaken to date;
- No response has been provided to the Committee’s request to consider halting work on the NHP to allow dialogue on how the project might be modified.

In response to a request for details of the Citadel project, following a third-party notification to UNESCO, the State Party explains that the aim is to transform the closed Citadel fortress into an open park, connecting the two sides of Gellért Hill on which it stands and opening the wall behind the raised Statue of Liberty, thus creating ‘a true symbol of national freedom’. A Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) was undertaken, which showed that “the visual impact of the project will not affect significantly the visual appearance of the property”. No further details, results of the VIA or plans of the project, have been provided.

As a result of third-party notifications, the State Party also explained that projects in the northern area of Budapest, namely the Marina City residential complex, the Láng Quarter and the Twins office building, were all approved in accordance with the then applicable maximum height of 65 metres and before Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) were required.

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

The commitments to complete the Management Plan and to revive ICOMOS advisory assistance are welcomed. The two sessions held online in 2022 addressed management and the definition of the attributes of OUV. As indicated by the State Party, these sessions initiated an important dialogue on OUV, but they also set the stage for further discussions on the Committee’s concerns, in particular on the NHP. Unfortunately, despite the Committee’s recommendations to halt work to allow for further dialogue, this did not happen.

Work on the NHP, which began in 2019, has continued. The submitted promotional booklet explains the rationale for the NHP as the overall ‘renewal’ of Hauszmann-designed structures in the Buda Castle Quarter as a ‘21st century renaissance of national identity’. The booklet describes the work completed so far to rebuild elements destroyed during WWII or rebuilt during the Communist era. These include the reconstruction of the facades of the Guardhouse, based on original plans but ‘meeting the challenges of 21st century technology’, completed in 2020, and the facades of the Riding in 2021. Other completed projects include the reconstruction of the Stöckl Stairway linking the Guardhouse to the Riding Hall, the Karakash Pasha Tower, and the Hauszmann Ramp. Work on the Buda Castle continues. The reconstruction of the South Range was completed in the summer of 2021, including the complete recreation of the interior of St Stephen’s Hall to its early 20th century form. Reconstruction of the north range of the palace complex is underway, and there are plans to re-build Archduke Joseph’s Palace, the former Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters, the Royal Defence Headquarters, and the National Archives of Hungary. As the booklet appears to have been published in 2021, this list might not be up to date.

Only photographs or visualisations of the various buildings have been provided, with no supporting documentation to show the evidence of the work or materials used. The overall plan aims to make most of the castle area accessible to all. To that end, external elevators have been constructed in places, some buildings are intended to become restaurants or events spaces, while others await a new use.

It is considered unfortunate that despite two international meetings organised by the State Party to discuss reconstruction approaches in European cities, particularly with respect to the NHP project, no dialogue was forthcoming with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Similarly, despite several requests by the Committee, full details of the Buda Castle Quarter project, including the justification for reconstruction in relation to documentary evidence and the methodological approach, have not been provided to the World Heritage Centre, nor have the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) or Conservation Plans. It is of great concern that the extensive reconstruction work undertaken since 2019 has not been approved by the Committee, either in principle or in detail, and appears to address national priorities rather than preservation of the OUV.

In order to provide a better understanding of the rationale for this work and what has been accomplished, the Committee may wish to request the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to follow up on the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and the intervening Committee decisions, and to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and its management.

Overall, the state of conservation of the property continues to be put at risk by negative factors which collectively and cumulatively impact its authenticity and integrity and are potential threats to its OUV. Without urgent and adequate measures and responses to reorienting the approach to conservation and development, the property will meet some of the criteria set out in Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.56, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise the Management Plan for the property as soon as possible and to submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;*
4. *Regrets that, despite the Committee's request to halt work on the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) in order to allow for dialogue on how it might be modified, work has been undertaken to 'renew' Hauszmann-designed structures in the Buda Castle Quarter, which has not been approved by the Committee either in principle or in detail;*
5. *Also regrets that, despite several requests by the Committee, full details of the Buda Castle Quarter project, including the justification for reconstruction in relation to documentary evidence and the proposed methodological approach, have not been provided, nor have Heritage Impact Assessments or Conservation Plans;*
6. *Also notes that, based on details provided in a promotional brochure on the NHP, extensive reconstruction work undertaken since 2019 includes the facades of the Guardhouse and Riding School, the Stöckl Stairway, the Karakash Pasha Tower, the Hauszmann Ramp and the South Range of the Castle, including the complete recreation of the interior of St Stephen's Hall to its early 20th century form, and further notes that reconstruction of the north range of the Castle is underway, and that reconstruction is planned for the Archduke Joseph's Palace, the former Hungarian Red Cross Headquarters, the Royal Defence Headquarters, and the National Archives of Hungary;*
7. *Reiterates its concern about the negative impact of the continuation of the NHP works on the state of conservation of the property, with potential cumulative negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including its authenticity and integrity, as noted in previous decisions of the Committee;*
8. *Requests the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall state of conservation and management of the property, including the potential negative impact of the continuation of the NHP works on its OUV, and allow a full understanding of what has been accomplished in the context of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and subsequent decisions of the Committee;*
9. *Notes the commitment by the State Party to revive the ICOMOS advisory assistance on the management and development of the property, but invites it to consider directing any future advisory assistance by ICOMOS towards the implementation of the recommendations of the forthcoming Reactive Monitoring mission;*

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, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

9. Tokaj Wine Region Historic Cultural Landscape (Hungary) (C 1063)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (iii)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1063/documents/>

International Assistance N/A

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of legal power, human and financial resources (issue resolved)
- Quarrying application (issue resolved)
- Possible development of straw-burning power plant (issue resolved)
- Need to delineate a precise buffer zone
- Bypass road and bridge project to replace the high traffic road crossing the property

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1063/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 November 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report at the request of the World Heritage Centre, following the construction of the Grand Hotel Tokaj in the Csurgó Valley within the property without prior notification in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. An executive summary of the report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1063/documents/> and presents information on new issues identified as follows:

- In 2016, a Government Decree was issued establishing the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, defining the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and endorsing the Management Plan for the property. The implementation of the Management Plan is ensured by the Tokaj Wine Region Development Nonprofit Ltd in close cooperation with the Ministry of Construction and Transport;
- The construction of a 100-room, four-storey Miaro Hotel Tokaj (formerly Grand Hotel Tokaj) on an abandoned mine site in the Csurgó Valley was considered by the regional authorities to have no negative impact on the OUV of the property and was supervised by the highest national authorities, the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Construction and Transport. A visual impact assessment (VIA) was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in April 2023. An archaeological assessment was also undertaken. In relation to the rehabilitation of the post-mining landscape, the State Party proposes a supporting memorandum detailing the economic issues involved in the rehabilitation of mining landscapes, the concept of the hotel project, the justification of the project in relation to the 2021-2027 Regional Development Concept of the Tokaj Wine Region and the 2016 Management Plan, which provides for the landscape rehabilitation and integration of landscape wounds and abandoned mines;

- A closed-cabin cable car lift project is proposed on the Tokaj Hill within the property. In accordance with national legislation, an impact assessment was prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in July 2023 for review by ICOMOS.

Two of the three annexes submitted by the State Party on the hotel complex project are in Hungarian (the County Planning Council Resolution and the 2019 Environmental Plan).

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

The Government Decree 485/2016 on *The World Heritage Management Plan for the Historic Tokaj-Hegyalja Wine Region* sets out the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone and defines the content of the Management Plan for the property. The Decree sets out a list of attributes that support the OUV of the property, but these differ from those included in the Retrospective Statement of OUV (RSOUV) adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2013 (Decision **37 COM 8E**). Although the two sets of attributes are essentially similar, the differences may lead to varying interpretations and may cause problems. It is recommended that the Decree be amended to achieve full alignment with the attributes as listed in the RSOUV. It is also recommended that the Management Plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The Minaro Hotel Tokaj, within the property, was constructed without notification to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. A VIA dated April 2022 was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 June 2023, following completion of the construction, and was subject to an ICOMOS Technical Review, which concludes that although there is virtually no visual link between the hotel and the surrounding landscape or distant viewpoints, the scale and architectural design of the new building is alien to the character of the property. Furthermore, the new hotel has the potential to increase traffic in the heart of a sensitive rural landscape and may have other indirect impacts that have not been assessed. There should be no future expansion of this facility and the creation or widening of roads on the property should be avoided.

For the Tokaj Kopasz Hill Cable Car project, an ICOMOS Technical Review of the documentation submitted was transmitted to the State Party on 17 January 2024. The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) shared by the State Party presents several routes between the town of Tokaj and the top of the Kopasz Hill. The Technical Review concludes that these routes would all have a negative impact on the OUV of the property and that a cable car project could only be acceptable if substantial changes were made, including the location, architectural and landscaping quality of the associated infrastructure and the reduction of traffic on the road leading to the top of the hill. It would also be necessary to study alternative routes and where relevant to justify why they are not feasible. The indirect impacts of the project, such as significantly increased visitation or the potential increase in traffic, should also be assessed through a new HIA. The cable car project should not proceed as currently proposed and the project should be reconsidered having regard to the findings of the ICOMOS Technical Review.

It would be appropriate for the Committee to remind the State Party that, in accordance with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, documentation of projects that may affect the OUV of the property should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as early as possible and before any decisions are taken that would be difficult to reverse. Such documentation should include an HIA, prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The State Party has yet to report on proposals for new or improved roads, including a bypass to replace the high traffic road crossing the property, as requested in Decision **35 COM 7B.94**.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Notes the establishment of a Management Plan for the property and requests the State Party to submit its electronic copy in one of the working languages of the Committee to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

3. Also requests the State Party to amend Decree 485/2016 on the World Heritage Management Plan for the Historic Tokaj-Hegyalja Wine Region, so that the attributes supporting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are identical to those adopted by the Committee in Decision **37 COM 8E**;
4. Notes with regret that the Minaro Hotel Tokaj has been constructed within the property without prior preparation of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) or notification of the project to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and urges the State Party to ensure that there is no future expansion of this facility or related creation or widening of roads on the property, as recommended in the ICOMOS Technical Review of the Visual Impact Assessment of the project;
5. Notes with concern that the Kopasz Hill Cable Car project, if built on any of the proposed routes, would adversely affect the OUV of the property, advises that the project should not proceed in its current form, and further requests the State Party to reconsider it, having regard to the findings of the ICOMOS Technical Review to consider alternative routes and potential direct and indirect impacts, and to submit full documentation, including a new HIA, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before making any irreversible decisions;
6. Reminds the State Party of the requirement to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned and ongoing works that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, including HIAs prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to do so before making any decisions that are difficult to reverse, in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on proposals for new or improved roads, including a bypass to replace the high traffic road that crosses the property;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

10. **Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata (Italy)** **(C 829bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 183 487: Italian Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

December 2010 and January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; January 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Building projects in the vicinity of the property (possible impact of the project of visitor centre at Torre Annunziata and storage facility project in Pompei)
- Visitor pressure
- Management system (issue partially resolved)
- Need to propose a new buffer zone (issue partially resolved)
- A series of structural collapses at the property (issue resolved)
- Inadequate restoration and maintenance; lack of skills (issue resolved)
- Inadequate funding (issue resolved)
- Ineffective drainage systems (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2023, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/documents/>, which presents progress on the conservation issues previously addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- The financial resources and the human capacity for the management of all component parts of the property are stable and sufficient, and details of specific projects and budget allocations are provided;
- Updating of the Management Plan began in January 2023 and is foreseen to be completed in 2024;
- Continued efforts to stabilise and restore archaeological structures and decorative elements are underway, and systematic monitoring for necessary maintenance work is being prepared for both components;
- The legal procedure, including contractual arrangements, for the Porta Nola project should have been completed by the end of 2023, and the revised and updated design plans, together with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), were reported to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, with a target date of March 2024;
- The planned new visitor centre at Torre Annunziata has been revised and will be limited to visitor reception and facilities, with the planned interpretation and other expanded functions relocated to the nearby 'Spoletificio' site, in response to the advice of the ICOMOS Technical Review in 2019 and 2022. Revised design plans for the visitor centre will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once they are finalised;
- Multiple new projects are planned for the Archaeological Park of Herculaneum component, which will be notified to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The group of planned changes and projects around the Herculaneum Archaeological Park component of the property, foreshadowed in the State Party's report, were submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 14 February 2024, by means of an impact assessment report. They include projects to stabilise the edges of the archaeological area, projects to regenerate areas around the Archaeological Park, and projects to increase accessibility and improve the visitor experience.

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

The State Party should be commended for revising and extending the buffer zone of the property, which ensures the effective protection and preservation of its components and could be encouraged to include the area of Villa Regina in Boscoreale in the buffer zone with a further Minor Boundary Modification.

The updates to the management system of the property show a strong commitment and significant improvement. The detailed information provided on the financial resources of the components and the human capacity engaged in the management of the site indicate a stabilised post-COVID-19 situation. The information on the update of the Management Plan is welcomed and the State Party should be reminded that the final draft version of the document should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to adoption.

The numerous projects undertaken between 2021 and 2023 for the stabilisation and restoration of archaeological structures and decorative elements should be commended, as well as the progress made in establishing the systematic monitoring of archaeological remains, using state-of-the-art technology in the case of the Pompei component, to carry out the necessary maintenance work on an ongoing basis. This strategy ensures that the relevant archaeological databases are kept up to date and that the management system of the property is predictable and sustainable. The State Party has yet to provide a specific update on the conservation work completed on the buildings identified as at risk during the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, as requested previously by the Committee.

With regard to the planned project at Porta Nola (Pompeii component) for new depositories, staff offices and an archaeological storehouse, the design is being revised following the resolution of legal issues and the completion of related documentation. The revised project (due to be completed by March 2026) aims to reconstruct the pre-existing artificial hill and place the majority of the proposed building underground. The collection housed in the building will be open to researchers and visitors. Updated plans, together with a HIA, prepared in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are made.

Regarding the planned visitor centre at Torre Annunziata, following the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review, online meetings between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS took place in 2021 and 2022, and ICOMOS provided additional reviews of updated design options. The revised current project design includes revisions to the scale of the visitor centre and limiting its planned function to visitor reception and facilities, with a proposal to relocate additional functions to the former armoury (the so called 'Spolettificio'), which will be renovated and restored. It is acknowledged that the project is intended to improve the visitor management and experience of the two villas located in this component, but the proximity of the proposed new building to the remains of Villa Poppea remains a concern. The State Party should be requested to submit the final design plans for both the reduced visitor centre and the Spolettificio to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to approval.

The impact assessment report submitted in February 2024 addresses 41 potential projects in and around the Herculaneum Archaeological Park component of the property, intended to stabilise the edges of the archaeological area, increase accessibility, improve visitor experience, and regenerate the area around the archaeological park. The report is intended to screen the projects and enable the State Party to identify which projects, if pursued, would benefit from specific and more detailed HIAs. The State Party has been invited to provide additional information on these projects to facilitate consideration of the impact assessment report.

In view of the reported improvements in the factors previously identified as affecting the property and the package of current proposals, the Committee may wish to consider requesting a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the current state of conservation of the property and the need for further reactive monitoring.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions 44 COM 7B.156 and 45 COM 8B.61, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou, China/Online, 2021) and at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,

3. *Commends the State Party for revising and extending the buffer zone for the property, and encourages the State Party to implement the recommendation to extend the buffer zone to include the Villa at Boscoreale;*
4. *Also commends the State Party for its commitment to improving the management system of the property, including securing the necessary financial and human resources, the projects undertaken for the stabilisation and restoration of archaeological structures and decorative elements, as well as the progress made in establishing systematic monitoring of archaeological remains, in order to carry out the necessary maintenance work on an ongoing basis, and reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to provide updates on the conservation work completed on buildings identified as at risk during the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission;*
5. *Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to update the property's Management Plan, and requests the State Party to submit the final draft of the document to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to adoption;*
6. *Acknowledges the updated information on the planned project at Porta Nola in the Pompei component, and also requests the State Party to submit the revised, updated plans, together with a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), prepared in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before irreversible decisions are made;*
7. *Also acknowledges that the current project design of the planned visitor centre at Torre Annunziata includes significant revisions and further requests the State Party to submit the revised design plans, and documentation for works at the Spolettificio, including an HIA, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to approval;*
8. *Thanks the State Party for the notification, in accordance with both paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, of 41 potential projects within and around the Herculaneum Archaeological Park component of the property, and also encourages the State Party to continue to notify planned changes and projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to assess achievements in addressing the factors affecting the property, to review current project proposals, to assess the current state of conservation of the property, and the need or not for further Reactive Monitoring;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

11. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

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

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1979-2003

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1979-1982)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2003: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission; January 2006: Management Planning Course; February 2008: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission; March 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; October-November 2018: joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of Management System/Management Plan
- Inadequate legal framework
- Building and development (accelerated urban development and urban pressure)
- Ground transportation infrastructure (proposed major bridge at Verige and other proposed development projects)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Land conversion
- Society's valuing of heritage
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Earthquake damage (issue resolved)
- Lack of buffer zone (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/> and presents the following progress:

- The State Party has invested in the development of legal procedures and expertise to meet international standards, such as the integration of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into its legislative and administrative system, following the adoption of the Law on the Protection of the Natural and Cultural-Historical Region of Kotor in December 2019. However, the Administration for the Protection of Cultural Heritage faces challenges due to the lack of qualified staff and the additional pressure on the administration resulting from the strict legal requirements for the implementation of HIAs;
- The draft Management Plan, requested by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring Mission is in the final stages of preparation before being transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for comments and then sent to the government for approval. It will incorporate the conclusions and recommendations of the National Disaster Risk Assessment, adopted in December 2021;
- The vision for the spatial development of the Municipality of Kotor is linked to the sustainable development of tourism, and aims at finding a balance between tourism, the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the everyday life of the citizens. To this end, the Municipality of Kotor has adopted the 'Tourism Development Strategy of Kotor until 2030',

which envisages a series of measures to reduce the daily tourist pressure, is preparing a 'Sustainability Study of Tourism in Kotor', and, together with the Port of Kotor, has established cooperation with representatives of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) to develop guidelines for improving destination sustainability;

- The Spatial Urban Plan of Tivat is currently in force for the Lepetani area and a lower-order planning document will be prepared to re-evaluate the area;
- The buffer zone study, which defines areas in and around the property where an impact assessment should be required for potential projects, is a priority and is in its final conceptualisation stage;
- An alternative location for the Verige bridge was considered in the Study of the Protection of Cultural Properties, prepared for the Montenegro Coastal Development Plan. Subsequently, the Ministry of Culture has proposed to carry out an HIA that will include a comparative analysis of at least three solutions: the Verige bridge, the Lustica Zelenka bridge and an underwater tunnel. The aim is to identify the most appropriate solution, if any, to facilitate traffic in the coastal area, taking into account the landscape and the site's morphological complexities;
- Plans for the Morinj accommodation complex have been abandoned and the detailed spatial plan for the construction of a hotel complex on the former Fjord Hotel site and the Jugooceanija building is being translated prior to submission to the World Heritage Centre;
- HIAs have been prepared for a significant number of other proposed developments: residential developments in Strp, in Dobrota, Morinj and Orahovac; the Bokež football stadium; and tourist developments in Risan. Separate HIAs for the three quarries in the buffer zone were simultaneously submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 31 January 2024. Their approval has been withheld pending receipt of the ICOMOS Technical Review, after which the Ministry of Culture and Media will take appropriate action.

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

The continued integration of HIA processes into the legislative and administrative system through the implementation of the Law on the Protection of the Natural and Cultural-Historical Region of Kotor is welcomed. However, it remains a concern that there is a lack of qualified expertise and that the buffer zone study to define areas in and around the property has not yet been completed, putting unmanageable pressure on the Administration for the Protection of Cultural Property. The State Party is strongly encouraged to continue to invest in the further development of expertise and in capacity building activities in the field of cultural heritage and impact assessment, and to complete the buffer zone study without delay and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

While acknowledging the complexity of revising the Management Plan for the property and the State Party's work over the past years, it remains a concern that this has not yet been completed since the 2018 mission. The incorporation of the recommendations of the National Disaster Risk Assessment of December 2021 and the intangible values of the property into the Management Plan is welcomed. The State Party is therefore requested to give priority to this revision to make the Management Plan a fully operational tool for the effective management of the entire World Heritage property and its buffer zone, and to submit the final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its formal adoption.

In the meantime, the State Party is also invited to address the issues of development in accordance with the Spatial Urban Plan for Kotor, disaster risk reduction and tourism management, including issues related to the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that tourism may have on the property. It is noted that all development projects in the Municipality of Kotor are in line with the Spatial Urban Plan of Kotor, which was adopted in 2020 as an integral part of the Spatial Plan and incorporates all relevant recommendations of the 2018 mission, that HIAs are undertaken for all projects that may have a potential impact on the property's OUV, and that several modalities are proposed to strengthen the control over the implementation of the Spatial Urban Plan while the Management Plan is being completed. However, it is also noted that the moratorium on new construction imposed until the adoption of the Spatial Urban Plan for Kotor and the revision of the Management Plan expired in 2020, without the Management Plan having been finalised, and that numerous development projects are being planned and developed without taking into consideration their potential cumulative impacts. This also underlines the utmost urgency of completing the Management Plan and the fact that it addresses the

issue of a proactive and strategic approach to landscape level planning, which will help to manage the workload and pressure of conducting impact assessments.

The State Party's efforts to find an adequate management model for the property that will ensure the preservation of the OUV of the property and the normal daily life and functioning of its citizens, as well as the sustainable development of tourism, are noted. The adoption of the 'Tourism Development Strategy of Kotor until 2030', which provides for a series of measures to reduce the daily tourist pressure, the preparation of a 'Sustainability Study of Tourism in Kotor', as well as the cooperation established between the Municipality of Kotor, the Port of Kotor and industry representatives to improve destination sustainability are noted. As both the World Heritage status and the property's OUV constitute an important basis for tourism, the State Party is invited to give priority consideration to the protection of the OUV of the property in the development of tourism strategies and to submit any relevant strategic document to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation and implementation.

The updated information received on the various documents requested by the Committee in its Decision **45 COM 7B.191** is welcomed. Although the Spatial Urban Plan of Tivat is currently in force for the Lepetani area, it is of concern that it does not provide direct building requirements and that the Municipality plans to re-evaluate this area through another planning document, although this process does not appear to have started yet. The State Party is invited to promptly prepare this, as well as the detailed spatial plan for the conversion and construction of a hotel complex on the site of the former Fjord Hotel and the Jugooceanija building without delay and to submit all documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is welcomed that the State Party is considering alternative solutions for the Verige bridge and for addressing the problem of traffic and transport in a way that takes into account the lives of citizens and the OUV of the property. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies stand ready to advise the State Party in its efforts to involve appropriate expertise. The outcome of this process should be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The World Heritage Centre has received a significant number of HIAs. The recommendations of the relevant Technical Reviews should be considered by the State Party and integrated into decision-making as they become available. These highlight the pressures that the State Party faces in various areas of development and it is recommended that it considers carrying out Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) on issues such as tourism development, transport infrastructure and residential development. This would provide a clear framework for proponents and decision-makers to refer to before investing in the development of proposals and would also have the benefit of more effectively addressing cumulative impacts on the property's OUV.

With particular reference to the HIAs submitted for the quarries, the ICOMOS Technical Review concluded that the scale and intensity of the proposed quarrying does not appear to be compatible with the sustainable management of the property. It is therefore recommended that no new quarrying concessions be granted and that a mitigation strategy be developed now to limit the potential harm to the property's OUV.

In view of the large number of development proposals that the State Party has to consider since the lifting of the construction moratorium, which pose a significant risk of cumulative impacts, it may be beneficial for the State Party to invite an Advisory mission to assist in developing a clear and coherent approach to the sustainable management of the property, using all available planning tools, including the management plan and strategic environmental assessment.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.191**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*

3. Welcomes the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for a number of developments and the provision of information on various proposed projects, and encourages the State Party to continue to improve the HIA process and to pay particular attention to the indirect and cumulative impacts of the many projects being implemented, in the light of the strategic documents being prepared for the property and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
4. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to invest in the further development of knowledge, expertise and capacity-building in the field of cultural heritage and impact assessment, and invites the State Party to coordinate with the World Heritage Centre for any required support;
5. Notes the progress made by the State Party in finalising the draft Management Plan, urges it to expedite the process with a view of making it a fully operational tool for the effective management of the entire World Heritage property and its buffer zone, to submit the final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest opportunity and prior to its formal adoption, and to ensure appropriate incorporation of the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies, and reiterates its request that the Management Plan incorporate the recommendations of the 2018 mission and address the following issues, in particular:
 - a) Development issues in harmony with the Spatial Urban plan for Kotor Municipality,
 - b) Protection and conservation of tangible and intangible attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and other heritage values,
 - c) Disaster risk reduction,
 - d) Tourism management, including issues related to the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that tourism could have on the property;

and underlines the availability of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to accompany the final stages of this process, including through an Advisory mission, if the State Party deems it appropriate;
6. Welcomes the State Party's efforts to find an adequate and sustainable tourism management model for the property that is compatible with the protection of the OUV of the property, recommends that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) be carried out to manage proactively tourism development throughout the property and invites the State Party to submit any relevant strategic document to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation and implementation;
7. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the following documents at the earliest opportunity to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:
 - a) The buffer zone study to define areas in and around the property where an impact assessment should be required for potential projects,
 - b) A planning document for the Lepetani area that would detail direct construction requirements and complement the Spatial Urban Plan of Tivat currently in force,
 - c) The HIA comprising alternative comparative solutions for the Verige bridge, when it is completed,
 - d) The detailed spatial plan under preparation for the conversion and construction of a hotel complex on the site of the former Fjord Hotel and the Jugooceanija building,
 - e) Relevant documentation on any other projects proposed in the property, buffer zone or wider setting that may have a potential negative impact on the OUV, with particular attention to the indirect and cumulative impacts of the many projects

being implemented, in the light of the strategic documents being prepared for the property and in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

8. *Notes that according to the Technical Review of the proposed quarrying within the property and its buffer zone, it appears to be incompatible in scale and intensity with the sustainable management of the property, recommends that no new quarrying concessions be granted and that a mitigation strategy be developed to limit the potential harm to the property's OUV and requests furthermore that the recommendations of the Technical Reviews for the other proposed projects are considered with regards to authorisations and mitigation measures;*
9. *Encourages the State Party to invite an Advisory mission to the property to assist in defining a strategic and sustainable approach to the multiple development requests and to avoid any risk of cumulative impacts on the property's OUV, using all available planning tools, including the Management Plan and SEAs;*
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.*

12. Centennial Hall in Wrocław (Poland) (C 1165)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1165/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1165/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Eastern Bridge road proposal
- Lack of overall development plan for the property and its buffer zone
- Large-scale projects completed or in an advanced stage of development
- Management issues

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1165/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1165/documents/> and provides information on the measures implemented

by the State Party in response to the decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), as follows:

- The updated management plan is expected to be finalised and submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the end of 2024;
- Projects with potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are subject to review processes to ensure compliance with the provisions of local development plans and agreement by heritage conservation services;
- Information on the state of conservation of the property and the various projects being implemented within the property and its buffer zone has been shared with the World Heritage Centre between 2013 and 2022;
- The Development and Management Master Plan of the Centennial Hall and its Buffer Zone is part of the Local Spatial Development Plan prepared in 2013 to show how the various areas of the whole complex would be used. It was shared with the World Heritage Centre in 2014;
- In January 2023, in accordance with the Act on the Protection and Care of Monuments, the Regional Conservator of Monuments assumed responsibility for all competencies related to cultural heritage within the Municipality of Wrocław. As a result, decisions concerning the assets inscribed in the Register of Monuments and local planning were adopted by the State Conservation Service to ensure a unified approach to the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;
- A Reactive Monitoring mission has been invited to take place after 10 May 2024.

Following the request of the World Heritage Committee to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party on 23 October 2023 that the mission could be carried out during the week of 27 November 2023. On 26 January 2024, the State Party invited the Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and requested that it be scheduled after 10 May 2024 due to the local elections in Poland and the involvement of the municipal authorities in the preparations. On 26 February 2024, the World Heritage Centre indicated its availability and that of ICOMOS to carry out the mission during the week of 9 September 2024. The dates of the mission were confirmed by the State Party on 10 May.

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

The information that the updated management plan for the property and its buffer zone is planned to be finalised by the end of 2024 is to be welcomed. It is also noted that the State Conservation Service is now responsible for all decisions regarding protected assets within the World Heritage property and its buffer zone.

However, it is to be underlined that the conservation challenges faced by the property and raised since 2011, which led to a Reactive Monitoring mission in 2011 and subsequent exchanges and reporting, stem from the lack of timely notification by the State Party of 'the intention to undertake or to authorize major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value'. Such information, according to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, 'should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse'. Information was only provided at the request of the World Heritage Centre and after decisions had already been made for large-scale projects within the property, its buffer zone and wider setting, such as the Main Terrace Restaurant Pavilion, the Underground Car Park adjacent to the Centennial Hall and related facilities, the adaptive reuse of the Four Dome Pavilion, the Afrykarium and the Great Island Avenue, among others.

Concerns raised by ICOMOS in its reviews of these projects and technical recommendations remained unaddressed, including the request to provide clearer cartographic documentation of whether and how the route of the Great Island Alley would encroach on the Szczytnicki Park, and how many trees would need to be felled to enlarge the road in this section. The World Heritage Committee may wish to request such documentation.

Compliance with national or local provisions does not necessarily guarantee the safeguarding of attributes and their capacity to convey the OUV of the property. Therefore, there is an urgent need to strengthen the management system and its mechanisms to prevent such situations from recurring in the future. Intentions for projects should be communicated to the World Heritage Committee in a timely

manner and an assessment of impacts should be made in relation to the attributes of OUV and not just in relation to compliance with national or local provisions.

In this regard, the Committee is advised to recommend that the State Party develop mechanisms that integrate the preparation of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for any project, irrespective of its scale and nature, that may impact on the attributes that convey the property's OUV. The revision of the management plan provides the appropriate context for reviewing and strengthening the governance and management mechanisms. The updated management plan will also need to be based on an updated assessment of the current condition of the attributes underlying the property's OUV and their capacity to convey it. Therefore, the Committee is advised to request that a cumulative assessment of the direct and indirect impacts of all implemented projects on the OUV of the property be carried out to understand what potential negative impacts the property may have suffered, what mitigation measures may be required, and to integrate them into the management planning cycle of the revised management plan.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.194**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Welcomes the intention of the State Party to finalise the revised management plan for the property by the end of 2024, and as part of this revision process, requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Strengthen the management system and related mechanisms to ensure that Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines is systematically implemented,*
 - b) *Develop mechanisms to integrate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into the management system to ensure that appropriate assessments are carried out in accordance with the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for all projects, irrespective of their scale and nature, on the attributes that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and their capacity to convey it,*
 - c) *Develop a cumulative HIA for all projects undertaken on the property, its buffer zone and wider setting since its inscription, as a basis for assessing potential negative impacts on the attributes conveying the OUV of the property, and identifying mitigation measures so that they can be integrated into the revised management plan,*
 - d) *Submit the final draft of the revised management plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its formal adoption;*
4. *Takes notes of the invitation of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission by the State Party, which is scheduled to take place in the week of 9 September, but regrets that the timeframe proposed by the State Party did not allow the Committee to examine the resulting report at its current session;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, prior to the Reactive Monitoring mission, with clearer cartographic documentation showing whether and how the route of the Great Island Avenue would encroach upon the Szczytnicki Park and how many trees would need to be felled to widen the road in relation to the boundaries of the park;*

6. *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.*

13. Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga (Portugal) (C 1590)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

14. Arslantepe Mound (Türkiye) (C 1622)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

16. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Türkiye) (C 356bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

19. Sítio Roberto Burle Marx (Brazil) (C 1620)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1620/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1620/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management system to be strengthened
- Urban development pressures

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1620/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 February 2024, the State Party submitted a report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1620/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2021 is presented in the report as follows:

- In the framework of the 2022 Periodic Report, five attributes were identified, including the location and geography, the property as a landscape laboratory, the botanical collection, the interaction between architecture and landscape and the relationship with society. Extensive research and documentation are in progress;
- A programmed Conservation Plan is under preparation that takes into account the documental character of the gardens as well as the permanent transformation and interaction with its natural environment. A broad group of experts serve as an advisory board for this process. The first component concerns the Roberto's House Garden that will be finalised in the first semester of 2024, to be followed by conservation plans for the Atelier Garden and Lakes Garden;
- Following a workshop with institutions and stakeholders in August 2023, a formal Management Committee will be set up by means of a National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) ordinance. Once this Committee is operational, the preparation of the Management Plan will be initiated;
- A security plan is currently being prepared, to be finalised and implemented in 2024, that considers fire prevention, detection and panic control. Camera surveillance has been improved and a 24-hours security team is in place. A diagnosis of risk factors and threats was made in the 2022 Periodic Report;
- Protection of the buffer zone and the control of urban development pressure, will be incorporated in the Management Plan for the property;

- All components of the buffer zone are under the supervision of the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro, IPHAN, the State Institute of Cultural Heritage (INEPAC) and the Rio de Janeiro State Environmental Institute (INEA). Interventions in the buffer zone require impact assessments and approval of IPHAN;
- Urban development is supervised by different sectors of the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro on the basis of the Municipal Master Plan and the Urban Structuring Plan for Guaratiba.

Other actions include the creation of the Association of Friends of the Sítio Roberto Burle Marx (AASRBM), education and diffusion, a Botanical Memorial Project to document and publicise the collection expeditions of Burle Marx, restoration of nurseries, cataloging of the museological collection and library, oral history project and partnership with the Landscape Laboratory of the Federal University of Pernambuco.

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

The systematic approach to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List is very much appreciated.

Progress is noted in all fields that are necessary for an integrated management of the property and buffer zone such as the upcoming establishment of a broad Management Committee, the preparation of a Conservation Plan, risks preparedness and control of urban development in the buffer zone of the property. For the latter, it is recommended that any required Heritage Impact Assessment be undertaken by the State Party in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context. Other reported actions are noted with satisfaction.

It is recommended that the State Party be requested to prioritise the detailed delineation of the attributes of the property and their degree of intactness, in line with Paragraph 4.a) of Decision **44 COM 8B.27**, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre if requested, and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies.

The attributes should then be reflected in and guide the elaboration of the Conservation Plan, Management Plan, Risk Preparedness Plan and urban regulations for the buffer zone. The State Party should be requested to establish a collaboration process with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to address the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List and to submit these plans and regulations as soon as they become available for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **44 COM 8B.27**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Appreciates the systematic approach the State Party has taken to respond to the recommendations that were issued by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List;*
4. *Recommends the State Party to prioritise the detailed delineation of the attributes of the property and their degree of intactness, in line with paragraph 4.a) of its Decision **44 COM 8B.27**, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre if requested, and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to establish the Management Committee and develop on the basis of the completed definition of the attributes, a Management Plan, Conservation Plan, Risk Preparedness Plan and urban regulations for the buffer zone, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, and requests the State Party*

to submit these plans and regulations as soon as they become available to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. *Stresses the importance to control urban development pressure, to ensure protection of views from the property into the surrounding landscape and to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, as required;*
7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2025, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

20. Churches of Chiloé (Chile) (C 971bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2002-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 50,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient delimitation of boundaries
- Construction of a shopping mall in the vicinity of the Castro Church
- Insufficient legal definition of buffer zones and visually sensitive areas of each component
- Commercial development
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Legal framework
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in those reports, as follows:

- Within the framework of the Comprehensive Plan for the Protection of the Churches Environments, the National Monuments Council (CMN) has been working with local communities. Cooperation with the six local municipal governments concerned has intensified;

- Increased demand from communities and municipal governments has resulted in new participation and socialization processes for the proposals of Typical Zones already approved by the CMN but not yet enacted by the Ministry.
- Due to legal actions brought by civil society and indigenous representatives in 2023 concerning the consultation and designation procedure, the process of protection of the wider environment of the churches of Castro, Achao, Rilán and Dalcahue has been interrupted. The Decree concerning the designation of the Typical Zone of Castro was annulled by the Supreme Court in August 2023, whereas the Typical Zones of Achao and Rilán are under renewed review by the CMN. The process for Dalcahue will be resumed in 2024. In the case of Caguach, priority will be given to the restoration of the church before the definition of a Typical Zone;
- The Intervention Guidelines for Castro are pending the legal process. Those for Ichuac, Detif and Aldachildo have been submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies. Work on the guidelines for Colo and San Juan will proceed;
- The Integrated Management Plan 2023-2028 (IMP) has been under development since 2020 and is now being evaluated by the Site Manager and the cultural institutions. The proposed management model recognizes the churches as a fundamental pillar of Chiloe's identity and a source of sustainable development and ensures participation of all identified stakeholders. Positive achievements of local participation through roundtables can be noted. Community priorities of conservation, tourism, security and social issues have been included in the IMP. The challenge for 2024 will be to keep these community coordination roundtables active. The draft IMP of November 2023 is submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
- In 2023, the Cuidemos Chiloe Plan progressed with the technical work for the improvement of 200 houses in Typical Zones. A neighborhood revitalization programme is being implemented in Castro. Conservation works are being undertaken in the churches of Chonchi, Detif, Ichuac, Caguach and Colo, while community management is strengthened in Rilán, Chelín, Nercón, Dalcahue, San Juan and Tenaún. Financial resources are provided by the World Heritage Sites Social Programme and the Cultural Heritage Fund;
- The execution of the "Castro by-pass Project" has suffered delays but will be resumed in 2024 and is expected to be completed in two years. In the meantime, archaeological research was completed at 14 sites that were identified during construction and a management plan has been proposed for archaeological monitoring during the future construction works;
- While the Risk Management Plan is being completed, actions and projects are being undertaken that address emergency and risk conditions.
- Targeted measures have been taken to reinforce cultural heritage institutions and to develop a new Cultural Heritage Law.

Since the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, the State Party has been working on the designation of protected areas around the churches (the Typical Zones) and the preparation of specific regulation for each of them, the preparation of the IMP, and the execution of numerous conservation and restoration, risk prevention, awareness building and education programmes.

The case of Castro is extremely complex. The designation of a Typical Zone has encountered opposition from different groups in the community. Furthermore, the State Party has made great effort to mitigate the impact of the shopping mall development but could not advance very far as the mall is privately owned and physical measures would barely be able to mitigate the generated visual impact.

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

The State Party is commended for the numerous actions and programmes it has undertaken for the conservation of the 16 churches, the designation of Typical Zones and the establishment of intervention guidelines for each of them. Progress is noted in numerous fields of action. However, the draw-back in and concerns of civil society on the designation of Typical Zones and the corresponding Intervention Guidelines for Castro, Achao, Rilán and Dalcahue is noted with serious concern. The State Party should be urged to strengthen the consultation processes with the local and indigenous communities and municipalities that should lead to agreement on the definition of the Typical Zones and Intervention Guidelines.

The completion of the draft IMP is welcomed. The State Party should be encouraged to consider the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies once the technical review is completed.

The delay in the execution of the “Castro by-pass” is noted and the State Party should be urged to complete the works as planned. The attention the State Party is giving to archaeological research during and after the works is commended.

The protection of the setting of the church of Castro and the implementation of mitigation measures for the shopping mall were among the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission. Unfortunately, the State Party has not been able to implement these recommendations. As a consequence, the actual threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property persist, as concluded by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th session in 2021.

Considering the difficulties encountered in the implementation of some of the most substantive and critical recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, it is recommended that a second Reactive Monitoring mission be undertaken as soon as possible. The mission should review the implementation of all recommendations of the 2013 mission, particularly those referring to the designation of buffer zones and regulations for each of the 16 churches that make up the serial property. Special attention should be paid to the case of Castro and to whether mitigation measures to the shopping mall are feasible and/or potentially effective to diminish its negative impact on the OUV of the property. The mission should also be tasked to identify broad mobilization measures to respond to the urgent conservation needs of the property.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.110, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the numerous conservation activities undertaken at the property and its efforts to respond to the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission;*
4. *Welcomes the progress made in the preparation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the Risk Management Plan and, before their approval, encourages the State Party to consider the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies once the technical reviews become available;*
5. *Notes that the “Castro by-pass project” will be continued in 2024 and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on its progress;*
6. *Reiterates that it is a fundamental requirement for the adequate protection and management of the 16 churches that make up the World Heritage property, to designate appropriate buffer zones and put in place intervention guidelines, expresses concern that the designation of the Typical Zone of Castro has been annulled and that the designations for Achao, Rilán and Dalcahue are being reconsidered and also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the related legal actions brought by civil society and indigenous representatives;*
7. *Also notes with concern that no effective mitigation measures have been identified and agreed upon with the owner of the shopping mall of Castro;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to invite, as soon as possible, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to review the*

implementation of all the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular:

- a) *the status of the designation of the buffer zones (Typical Zones) and Intervention Guidelines for each of the sixteen components of the property,*
 - b) *the wider context of the church of Castro including traffic management and eventual urban development and construction proposals in the area surrounding the church,*
 - c) *the adequacy of the proposed Typical Zone to protect the immediate surroundings of the church of Castro,*
 - d) *the feasibility to mitigate the negative impact of the shopping mall of Castro on the values and attributes of the component,*
 - e) *the measures which are required for a broad mobilization to ensure the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular the component of Castro;*
9. ***Finally requests** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and on the steps taken to implement the recommendations above mentioned, particularly regarding the shopping mall in Castro, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

AFRICA

21. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

22. Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions (Ghana) (C 34)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 145,086

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 26,770 provided in 2007 by the Australia Trust Fund for the project "Cleaning Ussher Fort"; USD 49,261 received in 2007 by the European Commission for the project "External Works for the Restoration and Redevelopment of Parts of Ussher Fort"; USD 33,593 provided in 2019 by the UNESCO / Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the project "The rehabilitation of Ussher Fort Slave Museum and Documentary Centre"; USD 35,377 provided in 2021 by the government of France for the "Consolidation of Fort Amsterdam (Ghana) for Conserving and Preserving Heritage for sustainable Development"; USD 50,000 provided in 2024 by the UNESCO / Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the project "Enhancing visitor experience at Fort Amsterdam".

Previous monitoring missions

April/May 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission; February 2020: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Erosion (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again since 2019)
- Housing, (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again since 2019)
- Commercial development
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Illegal construction
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Ground Water Pollution
- Solid waste
- Management systems/management plan (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again since 2019)
- Legal Framework
- Financial resources
- Heavy rain (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again since 2019)
- Wind (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again since 2019)
- Changes to oceanic waters

- Salt-laden atmosphere (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again since 2019)
- Lack of maintenance of built fabric

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/>

Current conservation issues

On 22 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/documents/>, addressing a number of conservation issues previously raised by the Committee as follows:

- For the delineation of boundaries and buffer zones, the State Party engaged in May 2023 a consultant under the World Bank-funded Ghana Tourism Development Project. Three out of four stages are completed (reconnaissance survey of all components for their physical inspection, gathering information from the localities, meetings with local authorities, etc.). The fourth stage concerns the drawing of site plans indicating proposed final boundaries and buffer zones;
- The report recalls the completion of the Rehabilitation of the Ussher Fort Slavery Museum and structural consolidation works at Fort Amsterdam, with support from France and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as well as capacity building in cultural resource management supported by France;
- The draft Integrated Management Plan (IMP) has been amended following ICOMOS' review; a steering committee was to be established during the first quarter of 2024;
- Two Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC) World Bank-funded Ghana Tourism Development projects are referred to:
 - Design for the Elmina Iconic Project at St George Castle at Elmina: the State Party is compiling the necessary documentation following ICOMOS' recommendations for resubmission to the World Heritage Centre,
 - Work at Victoria Park in front of Fort St. Anthony at Axim has been halted while the plans are reviewed internally before submission to the World Heritage Centre;
- Despite its commitment to addressing the numerous conservation challenges, the State Party acknowledges the limited progress made largely due to a lack of resources required to survey the structural integrity of components and expresses strong concern at the ongoing deterioration of the integrity of the property components. It would welcome technical and financial support from the international community to develop a sustainable approach to the property's conservation, as well as advise from the World Heritage Centre on how to seek technical support from international partners to this end;
- An overview is provided of known projects within or near site components, noting that the James Town Fishing Harbour project and the use of Fort Fredensborg at Old Ningo as a contractor's yard continues. It has been unable to make progress on engaging UNESCO's Routes of Enslaved Peoples project, draft a Disaster Risk Plan or to create a Heritage Fund.

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

The State Party's candid communication regarding the challenges it faces in maintaining the state of conservation of the property is greatly appreciated. The efforts of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board to address the current worrying state of conservation of the property within this context are laudable, especially in its continued engagement with, and response to the advice provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. The State Party's commitment to respond to the advice provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies related to the World Bank-funded tourism development projects in Elmina and Axim is welcome and it would be appropriate to request that the revised projects be submitted in a timely manner for a new technical review by the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party's willingness to revise projects and the IMP in response to technical reviews by ICOMOS is also noted with satisfaction. The completion of the rehabilitation work at the Ussher Fort Slavery Museum and the consolidation interventions at Fort Amsterdam (funding for follow-up interventions was approved by the government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in April 2024) illustrate the dedication of the State Party and its willingness to collaborate with external parties to address the conservation needs of the property. Similarly, the project to delineate property boundaries and definition of buffer

zones has led to all components of the property being inspected, but regrettably already completed survey reports and related documentation were not provided for a more detailed appreciation.

However, the limited progress in implementing past Committee Decisions and mission recommendations, as reported by the State Party, is of great concern.

The State Party's unequivocal message is that it has neither the capacities nor means to address the urgent challenges presented by the property, which go beyond the physical maintenance of its integrity to include development pressures, visitor security, interpretation and display, and inappropriate projects. The capacity building activities, funded by the government of France, are therefore very welcome. However, the continued development of a fishing harbour at James Town, which directly negatively impacts Fort James and has a detrimental impact on its setting, potentially affecting also Ussher Fort nearby, and also the use of Fort Fredensborg at Old Ningo, indicates that not all organs of the State currently consider the safeguarding of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to be a priority.

The State Party makes a general request for assistance in its report. One of the primary challenges in the maintenance of the components of this property is that most of them are vacant and do not significantly contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development of their communities. Noting that the Convention is founded on the principle of collective assistance to maintain the OUV of World Heritage properties, and that the Committee has, in Decision **45 COM 7B.125**, already called for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, it would be appropriate at this time to establish a directed campaign to assist the State Party. This campaign would aim at developing strategies for long-term sustainable maintenance of the various property components in an effort to address the ascertained danger faced by the property due to the continued deterioration of materials, structure and/or ornamental features and architectural coherence. This requires an integrated approach, based on a thorough assessment of the components' structural integrity, individual contribution to the OUV of the property, territorial, spatial and socio-economic context, and climate change resilience.

In consideration of the above, it is appreciated that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th and 45th sessions. The mission was scheduled to take place after the time of writing this report, but before the 46th session of the Committee. The mission report will be available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/documents/>.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.5** and **45 COM 7B.125**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party for the progress made in finalising the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), completion of works for the rehabilitation of the Ussher Fort Slavery Museum and the consolidation of Fort Amsterdam, and the initiation of the project to delineate boundaries and define buffer zones of the components of the property, and encourages the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre already completed survey reports and related documentation, which would allow the Advisory Bodies to offer closer assistance in that process;*
4. *Thanks the international partners, in particular the governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and France, for their continuous support to the State Party's conservation and capacity building activities;*
5. *Appreciates the State Party's commitment to respond to the advice provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies through the amendment and resubmission of*

revised material related to the World Bank-funded tourism development projects in Elmina and Axim, and requests that the revised projects be submitted in a timely manner for a new technical review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. *Notes both the State Party's assessment of the challenges it faces in the maintenance of the integrity of the component parts of the property, and its expressed need to obtain technical assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to address these challenges;*
7. *Notes with great concern the State Party's reported lack of capacity and resources that is inhibiting the implementation of the urgent measures previously identified, and requests the State Party to sustain and increase its efforts to implement the requests and recommendations contained in Decisions **44 COM 7B.5** and **45 COM 7B.125** and in past Reactive Monitoring and Advisory mission reports;*
8. *Also notes with concern that the James Town Fishing Harbour project and the use of Fort Fredensborg at Old Ningo have not been halted;*
9. *Recalling its request for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, invites the State Party to enter into discussions with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to explore the possibility of launching a funding and assistance appeal in order to undertake studies from which a strategy or establishing a campaign can be developed for the long-term sustainable conservation of the property;*
10. *Notes with appreciation that the State Party has invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property scheduled to take place in mid-2024 to address these concerns, which will formulate recommendations for actions to be taken in order to address the numerous above-mentioned challenges the property is facing;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a progress report, and by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

23. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

24. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173rev)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

ARAB STATES

25. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2002-2006

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/193/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1989-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 75,900

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/193/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 9,564 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

1989-1992: 4 UNESCO expert missions; 2002: 2 expert missions and 1 World Heritage Centre mission; March 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage: Deterioration of the remains due to vandalism, theft and uncontrolled visitation causing accumulation of rubbish
- Erosion and siltation/deposition: Natural degradation caused by littoral erosion, marine salt, rainwater runoff and vegetation covering part of the inscribed sectors
- Housing
- Human resources: Lack of capacities for site conservation
- Illegal activities: Urbanisation on the outskirts of the property where, in the absence of a defined buffer zone, illegal construction provokes land disputes
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Management activities
- Marine transport infrastructure: Proposed port development
- Unsuitable restoration techniques, and poor conservation conditions for the archaeological remains

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/193/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/193/documents/>. Progress in a number of areas is presented in this report, as follows:

- Regular monitoring, conservation and maintenance of the archaeological sites are carried out by staff of the heritage authority (OGEBEC). Conservation conditions are reported as satisfactory overall;
- Inventory work has already been carried out for the main monuments and is continuing for all immoveable heritage; work is also being extended to the objects in the museum and storage;
- In collaboration with the Czech Litomyšl Faculty of Restoration, two objects displayed in the museum's courtyard were cleaned and restored;

- The risk reduction programme has resumed. It includes reinforcement of fences in sensitive areas, installation of solar-powered lighting, fire and anti-intrusion systems, as well as improvement of visitor services (automated turnstiles, visitor trails);
- The presentation of the site is enhanced with signage and the creation of an audio guide; plans for an interpretation centre at the Angelevy Villa are taken forward;
- A project is being developed to open the Royal Mauritanian Mausoleum to the public;
- Training workshops were organized in view of developing the Management Plan, notably in partnership with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH);
- Within the updated Master Plan for development and urban planning, the breakwater of Tipasa port will be painted with murals to reduce its visual impact;
- A study will be undertaken for the establishment of a wastewater collection system for the municipality of Tipasa, with particular attention to the property;
- A working group has been established to reflect on the maritime extension to the buffer zone, undertaking desk-based research and a diving campaign to identify and document the underwater archaeological heritage.

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

It is reassuring to see that management activities seem largely to have resumed after the closure of the archaeological areas and the deferral of various projects due to COVID-19. However, there are some activities that do not seem to be making progress and the State Party report does not fully address the Committee's requests or the recommendations of the 2017 Advisory mission.

Management planning seems to have focused only on capacity building for the management team. While such activities are to be commended, there is now a need to complete the plan in a timely fashion and ensure the engagement of stakeholders in that process. Many of the issues mentioned below could benefit from being included within the framework of a Management Plan, which would ensure that all actions are considered within a holistic and structured framework with clear management objectives based on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

Much new infrastructure is being installed at the property (e.g., signage, paths, turnstiles, lighting, fire and anti-intrusion systems, fencing, etc.). While this can contribute to management and improve the visitor experience, it is important to have a full understanding of the potential cumulative impact of these multiple additions on the sense of place. No information has been shared by the State Party on whether the proposed lighting system has been modified, as previously requested, to ensure that the most appropriate solution is implemented.

It is also concerning that the State Party report contains no information on the current status of the port development project, nor if it was revised in line with the recommendations provided by the 2017 Advisory mission, as requested by the Committee.

In the last state of conservation report, it was reported that one element of the port development project had already been implemented: there was an urgency to reinforce the cliff under the West Archaeological Park due to a landslide risk. In response, the Committee requested that the State Party take technical advice to improve the final result of these emergency measures. However, the State Party reports that they now consider the cliff reinforcement project to be completed.

Another recommendation of the 2017 Advisory mission had been to find landscaping solutions to reduce the visual impact of the breakwater which had already been constructed at Tipasa port. The report notes that within the updates to the Tipasa Master Plan for development and urban planning, the breakwater is being painted with artistic frescoes with the aim of reducing its visual impact.

After delays due to COVID-19, efforts are now being resumed to study the water pooling issues and the maritime extension of the buffer zone. As both projects are in their early stages, there is the opportunity for greater dialogue with the State Party on the proposals as they are drawn up, and it would be beneficial for the results of these studies to be shared as soon as possible for technical review.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7B.124**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021),
3. Takes note of the continuing efforts of the State Party to ensure the conservation, maintenance, monitoring and documentation of the property;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize and provide an electronic copy of the revised Management Plan or documented management system for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Reminds the State Party that multiple projects to add infrastructure at the property could potentially have a cumulative negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests that the lighting system is reviewed as previously requested, and that the World Heritage Centre is informed of any projects in or around the property that could affect OUV, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Also requests an update from the State Party on the status of the proposed port development project and reassurance that it has been revised in light of the recommendations of the 2017 Advisory mission and the mitigation measures suggested in the Heritage Impact Assessment;
7. Also encourages the State Party to complete the studies for the maritime extension to the buffer zone and for addressing rainwater pooling as soon as possible, and further requests that the proposed buffer zone modification and water management project are provided for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

26. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1979-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 398,900

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: Special Account for the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of Egypt: USD 2,203,304 for the project Urban Regeneration of Historic Cairo (URHC).

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/663>

Previous monitoring missions

March 2005: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April and December 2007: World Heritage Centre missions for the Cairo Financial Centre; October 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; 2008-2014: several World Heritage Centre missions for the URHC project; November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; June 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January/February 2021: UNESCO Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Earthquake in 1992 (issue resolved)
- Inappropriate restoration works (issue resolved)
- Water (rain/water table) (rise of the underground water level)
- Dilapidated infrastructure
- Neglect and lack of maintenance
- Overcrowded areas and buildings
- Uncontrolled development
- Absence of a comprehensive Urban Conservation Plan
- Absence of an integrated socio-economic revitalization plan linking the urban and the socio-cultural fabric of the city core
- Housing
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of a management system)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/89/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented as follows:

- In collaboration with stakeholders, work is still ongoing to prepare the combined Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) for the property;
- A temporary Historic Cairo Regeneration Unit has been formally established to manage projects of the Urban Development Fund (UDF) for the regeneration of Historic Cairo. It is headed by an Executive Director, who also heads a higher Coordinating Committee, and commissions an Advisory Committee. The former includes representatives of Cairo Governorate, relevant Ministries, and other institutions and experts, while the latter provides assistance and technical advice to the Executive Director, and is responsible for supervising works on management and action plans;
- A number of projects have been implemented, are ongoing, or are being planned to preserve heritage buildings, develop visitor services, compile an inventory of heritage crafts, deliver training and capacity building activities, and raise awareness;
- The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in collaboration with the UNESCO Cairo Office, is launching a University Heritage Forum, which includes training workshops focused on developing urban regeneration proposals, which will feed into the ongoing process of preparing a CMP and Sustainable Development Plan for the property;
- Confirmation is provided that all buildings in the property are protected under the relevant Egyptian Laws of 1983, 2006 and 2008;
- Demolition and removal of buildings that are considered to be structurally dilapidated or randomly built and incompatible with the historic urban fabric, are carried out within the strictest limits in order to ensure the survival of archaeological and heritage buildings;
- Interventions at Al-Hakim Mosque area, include reconstruction and reuse of *wikalat* (caravansaries) and urban spaces for heritage hotels and social, cultural and tourism activities. Heritage Impact

Assessment (HIA) reports are being reviewed, and when completed, will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

- The development of HIA studies will apply to all regeneration and development projects within the property;
- In response to third-party reports related to the destruction of cemeteries at the property, a report was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in August 2023, and included in Annex 4.

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

The decision by the Egyptian Cabinet to establish a temporary Historic Cairo Regeneration Unit to manage projects of the UDF, for urban regeneration and sustainable development projects in priority areas of the property is welcomed. It is noted that the higher Coordination Committees will develop a vision, approve and follow up work plans, projects, and time schedules, and approve financial resources.

However, it is not clear how this new initiative relates to structures that were approved in 2021 when a Higher Steering Committee for the property was established. This Committee, comprised of high-level representation from the relevant stakeholders, including the Cairo Governor, the Executive Director of UDF, the ministers of Tourism and Antiquities, Religious Endowments, Environment, and Interior, and other relevant stakeholders. Similarly, a board of expert consultants and specialists was also established, and both were tasked with developing the CMP, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in December 2022. No mention is made of either the Steering Committee or the board in the organisational chart provided. It would be helpful to understand if the Steering Committee has been subsumed into the Regeneration Unit.

The University Heritage Forum implemented with the UNESCO office in Cairo within the framework of the UNESCO Urban Regeneration of Historic Cairo project (URHC) project is noted. It is foreseen that it will contribute to the process of preparing the CMP and Sustainable Development Plan for the property.

In advance of any completed Sustainable Development Plan, mention is made of sustainable development projects prepared by the UDF, to achieve the 14 objectives that were the outputs of the URHC first and second phases, and are to be managed by the new Unit. Projects that are mentioned include the Integrated Management of Cultural Tourism Project, funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which aims to restore and reuse archaeological sites and heritage buildings through offering them as investment in partnership with the private sector.

Confirmation that all the buildings within the property are 'protected' by the relevant Egyptian Laws of 1983, 2006 and 2008 is helpful. The CMP should also be the document that translates these laws into practice through identifying what in the property is being protected and to what degree. Overall progress is being made through the introduction of new structures such as the Regeneration Unit that will be responsible for developing the CMP, overseeing regeneration projects across the city, drawing in support from private funders and developing an overall vision for the way forward. This is a positive step forward to coordinate regeneration activities across a wide canvas. But this work does need to be coordinated with the overall management and conservation of the property.

While this work is said to be linked to the outcome of the first and second stages of the URHC project, the third and final stage of that project, that is the Sustainable Development Plan, has yet to be finalized. The CMP also remains a work in progress and urgently needs to be completed in order to provide a basis for the Sustainable Development Plan, a context for regeneration projects that are already being implemented, and a guide for demolition proposals. These two documents are crucial to ensuring that regeneration projects respect the conservation and management of the property and sit within an overall sustainable development framework that is in line with the implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to prioritise the completion of drafts of these two documents for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before they are finally approved. It may also suggest that the vision which the new Regeneration Unit is tasked with drafting should also be submitted for review.

The State Party has responded to queries sent by the World Heritage Centre concerning the reported demolition within the property, stating that none has taken place at buildings of heritage value. In 2024, media reports have referred to a development project in the area of Salah El-din Citadel, and possible damage inflicted to heritage buildings and the Citadel's fence, in addition to reports on the demolition at the cemeteries.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.13** and **45 COM 7B.38**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,
3. Welcomes the creation of a new, temporary, Historic Cairo Regeneration Unit to manage projects of the Urban Development Fund for the regeneration of Historic Cairo, in relation to urban regeneration and sustainable development in priority areas of the property;
4. Requests the State Party to clarify how this new Unit relates to the Steering Committee for the property and its associated board that were both established in 2021;
5. Also welcomes the commitment to develop Heritage Impact Assessments for all regeneration and development projects within the property, and requests the State Party to extend the use of this tool to major conservation projects;
6. Notes that the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is still a work in progress with its completion now being the responsibility for the new Regeneration Unit and recommends it be in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), and also acknowledges the importance of the Plan in relation to setting out how the Egyptian Antiquities Protection Laws relate to heritage assets of the property;
7. Also notes that the University Heritage Forum implemented with the UNESCO Office in Cairo is foreseen to contribute to the process of preparing the CMP and Sustainable Development Plan for the property;
8. Urges the State Party to give priority to completing both the Sustainable Development Plan and the CMP as both are needed to frame the development of urgently needed regeneration projects and the vision for regeneration;
9. Also requests the State Party to submit drafts of both plans for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before they are finally approved and also, to submit the regeneration vision for review;
10. Acknowledges the engagement of the State Party with the World Heritage Centre in providing responses to reported damage to the property, nevertheless, expresses strong concern regarding the continued reported damage and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit technical information on any major restoration or new project at the property, or its buffer zone, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

27. Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2001-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 52,333

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

From August 2000 to August 2003: 3 missions in the framework of the Safeguarding and Rehabilitation project; September 2003: Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2003, October 2005: World Heritage Centre mission; April 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Society's valuing of heritage: Partial abandonment of the property
- Erosion and siltation/deposition: Gully erosion leading to rock falls
- Flooding: Floods at the end of 2014
- Management systems/ management plan: Lack of an updated Management Plan
- Deliberate destruction of heritage: Increased offences in old Ksar and degradation (issue resolved)
- Governance: Delays in the establishment of a technical and administrative structure responsible for the property (issue resolved)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation: Uncontrolled tourism and visitor pressure (issue resolved)
- Ground transport infrastructure: Possible impact due to the opening of the bridge connecting the two banks of the Wadi el-Maleh on the property (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 November 2023, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party that a report on the state of conservation should be submitted to the 46th session of the Committee in order to better understand and assess the state of conservation of the property following the earthquake that occurred in the Al Haouz region on 8 September 2023. On 21 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. A summary of the report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/documents>, which presents the state of conservation of the property following the earthquake and communicates the measures taken by the State Party:

- In addition to the tragic human toll, the earthquake caused extensive material damage throughout the province;
- The State Party immediately dispatched a mission from the Centre for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Architectural Heritage of Atlas and Sub-atlas Zones (*Centre de Conservation et de Réhabilitation du Patrimoine Architectural des Zones Atlastiques et Subatlastiques* – CERKAS) to the property, located 110km from the epicentre of the earthquake, in order to map the state of conservation of the buildings comprising the property, identify the buildings affected, draw up a descriptive report of the damage, assess consolidation and restoration work, and define measures to ensure the safety of the property and the people;
- The diagnostic indicates that the buildings restored using traditional techniques generally withstood the tremors well, but that the earthquake caused the collapse of the granary (*le grenier des Potiers*), which is the only evidence of a collective granary that no longer exists, and of three

of the five towers of its surrounding wall. The earthquake mainly affected seven buildings (to varying degrees), including the Ait Ougram kasbah and the N'Oumghar kasbah. Some buildings that were already in a state of ruin before the earthquake have deteriorated further. Rockfalls have also occurred in the south-western part of the property;

- The programme to restore houses in the *Ksar*, which began in 2014 and was slowed down by the COVID-19 pandemic, is due to resume shortly. It will include some of the new affected structures. The existing ruins will be consolidated and their structures reinforced;
- The permanent residential use of the *Ksar* is declining, whereas the development of commerce and guest houses for visitors is increasing.

In April 2024, the Director of World Heritage travelled to Morocco at the invitation of the Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication to visit the sites damaged by the earthquake of September 2023, and in particular to hold working sessions with the various site managers. It was agreed that UNESCO could accompany the national authorities in their efforts to provide the necessary expertise in the atlas and sub-atlas zones through CERKAS, whose institutional strengthening would also be necessary.

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

The technical assessment of the damage caused by the earthquake of 8 September 2023, carried out by CERKAS, shows that the property was only slightly impacted by this earthquake compared to other sites. Risk prevention and stabilization measures have been defined and are being implemented, and a technical diagnostic of the impact of the earthquake on the structures of the *Ksar* has been carried out. The report submitted by the State Party also reveals that the buildings previously identified as ruins have further deteriorated.

The post-earthquake interventions, of which the funding and schedule have not been specified, include the consolidation of existing ruins and the restoration of recently damaged structures. They will complement the work already planned for the restoration of inhabited buildings.

Documentation on the most destroyed structures is available. The granary and its surrounding wall have already been restored by CERKAS in 2008. Its restoration is planned, along with a programme of archaeological excavations that could not be carried out at the time, in order to possibly reveal the remains of the lost granaries.

In 2021, the State Party indicated an increase in the number of resident inhabitants within the property, which today appears to have decreased, whereas commerce and guest houses for visitors are increasing. As the situation is worrying, the State Party should be encouraged to relaunch the revitalisation and awareness-raising activities outlined in the 2020-2030 management plan as soon as possible.

In 2022, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, in which it responded to the Committee's requests expressed in Decision **44 COM 7B.133**, notably concerning the additions necessary for improving the operational aspect of the management plan submitted in 2021. Thus, the detailed action plan defining the objectives, resources and timetable for implementation has been sent to the World Heritage Centre, and the management system and decision-making process between stakeholders, as well as the strategic guidelines for the conservation and management of the property, have been specified. In the conclusion of its report, the State Party clarifies the new areas of intervention required, and in particular the need to establish a management structure with adequate human and financial resources, to draw up a risk management and visitor management plan, and a development plan for the property.

In April 2024, the Director of World Heritage travelled to Morocco at the invitation of the Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication to visit a number of sites damaged by the earthquake. It was agreed that UNESCO could accompany the national authorities by providing the necessary expertise in the atlas and sub-atlas zones, through CERKAS and its institutional strengthening.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*

2. *Commends the State Party for having promptly carried out a mission to assess the damage caused by the earthquake, as well as for the measures taken to ensure the safety of people and properties, and the stabilization of structures damaged by the earthquake of 8 September 2023;*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the willingness of the State Party to initiate a programme of studies, restoration of buildings impacted by the earthquake and consolidation of ruined buildings, as well as its intention to proceed with the programme for the restoration of houses within the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the roadmap of activities planned in the framework of these interventions;*
5. *Noting with concern the development of commercial activities and tourist accommodation within the property to the detriment of its residential functions, encourages the State Party to resume the revitalisation and community awareness-raising activities outlined in the 2020-2030 management plan;*
6. *Also encourages the State Party to continue to improve the management conditions of the property, in particular:*
 - a) *Establish a management structure with human and financial resources to coordinate work within the property,*
 - b) *Draw up a risk management plan and a visitor management plan,*
 - c) *Draw up a development plan of the property;*
7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

28. Medina of Marrakesh (Morocco) (C 331)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/331/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1994-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 52,984

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/331/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

August 2023: UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

N/A

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/331/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 November 2023, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party that a state of conservation report would be submitted to the 46th session of the Committee in order to better understand and assess the state of conservation of the property following the earthquake that occurred in the Al Haouz region on 8 September 2023. On 21 February 2024, the State Party submitted a State of conservation report. A summary of the report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/331/documents>, which presents the state of conservation of the property and communicates the measures taken by the State Party since the earthquake:

- In addition to the tragic human toll, the earthquake caused extensive material damage throughout the province;
- Technical commissions, involving all the departments concerned, have assessed the condition of all the buildings in the city of Marrakesh, mapping the affected areas in conjunction with the inventory of cultural assets, and examining the buildings in the light of this documentation in order to make an initial diagnosis;
- To minimize the very high number of demolition orders and as a safety and precautionary measure for buildings of heritage, aesthetic or historical interest, a scientific commission was set up whose main task is to re-examine all of the demolition orders granted by the technical commissions;
- Emergency measures have been taken for the Bahia Palace, the Badiâ Palace, the Saâdians tombs and the Ménara garden pavilion, including the closure of the monuments, safety fencing, emergency shoring and consolidation, the removal of unstable parts and regular monitoring;
- The medina ramparts have undergone an immediate restoration campaign.

In April 2024, the Director of World Heritage went to Morocco at the invitation of the Minister of Youth, Culture and Communication to visit the sites damaged by the earthquake of September 2023, and in particular the Medina of Marrakesh, where the measures put in place and the consolidation work undertaken for Koutoubia Mosque and Bahia palace could be examined. It was agreed that UNESCO could accompany national authorities in their efforts to provide the necessary expertise in the Atlas and sub-atlas zones, through CERKAS, whose institutional strengthening would also be necessary.

Concerning the underground parking projects that had been planned prior to the earthquake, namely the parking lot at Arset Bouachrine and the other one within the El Antaki hospital grounds, and in follow up on the ICOMOS technical reviews of the two Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for these projects, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS advisory mission took place from 1 to 4 August 2023.

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

Fortunately, the creation of a specialized scientific commission has made it possible to review the 929 total demolition orders prepared and to amend 76 of them, the historic character of which has been recognized for the purposes of restoration, conservation or reconstruction. This same approach, which is to be welcomed, has also enabled several riads to be safeguarded.

The initial diagnosis is reassuring for the major monuments of the property. The teams commissioned by the State Party have all the necessary skills for their missions and the damage they have assessed is generally minor, except for the ramparts of the medina, where the collapse of seven sections of ramparts was noted. These sections had previously been restored, probably using inadequate materials or techniques. It is recommended to request the State Party to undertake an analysis of the nature of this work in order to carry out an informed preventive review of monuments that have undergone similar work.

Restoration work on the ramparts has been undertaken rapidly. Four sections (Bab Lakhmis, Bab Aylan, Bab Dbagh and the ramparts between these two gates) have already been restored by specialist companies under the supervision of the relevant departments. It is recommended that documentation of the work be collected for monitoring purposes.

As regards the other monuments, provisional conservation measures have been taken and regular monitoring is in place. The State Party has released the necessary budgets for all emergency work and the initiation of studies or restoration work. The reports submitted by the scientific and technical commissions conclude that the property has only been slightly impacted by the earthquake and its

Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) has not been affected. Finally, it is recommended to request the State Party to submit all these reports, once the data has been collated, to the World Heritage Centre.

The ICOMOS recommendations concerning the car park developments at Arset Bouachrine and El Antaki Hospital are to be recalled, as such developments could increase traffic pressure and eventually damage the attributes of the OUV of the property. It is recommended that the State Party continue the scientific, technical and landscape studies necessary to limit the negative impact of these projects on the OUV of the property and modify the projects accordingly.

The management plan submitted in 2022 provides for the establishment of a competent management authority. It is recommended to request the State Party to provide information on the progress made in establishing this structure, its status, staffing and scope, as well as how it will be funded.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Commends the State Party for having promptly implemented, under the supervision of its cultural heritage services, measures to protect and preserve the property;*
3. *Notes with appreciation the establishment by the State Party of technical commissions to assess the damage caused by the earthquake of 8 September 2023 and of a specialised scientific commission to examine draft demolition orders;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to proceed with its efforts to ensure the implementation of restoration programmes for all the monuments of the property impacted by the earthquake;*
5. *Requests the State Party to submit the following information to the World Heritage Centre:*
 - a) *A scientific and technical report on the restoration work on the ramparts,*
 - b) *A file containing the reports on the assessment of damaged parts of the property, reports on the completed restoration projects of Bahia Palace and Koutoubia Mosque, and the schedules for the implementation of the planned restoration works,*
 - c) *Clarification on the management system, and in particular on the structure in place for the property, its status, staffing and scope of work, as well as its funding modalities;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to continue the preliminary studies necessary to define the final provisions of the car parking projects within the property and to submit them for consideration by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

29. Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe (Sudan) (C 1336)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1336/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2004)

Total amount approved: USD 20,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1336/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount: USD 19,798 from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund for the assessment of the impact of floods on cultural heritage in Sudan, in 2020; 25,000 EUR from the French Government for mitigation measures at both cultural World Heritage properties in Sudan; USD 67,510 by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund for Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage.

Previous monitoring missions

February 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Advisory mission; 2020: UNESCO assessment mission (impact of floods)

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Land conversion (Development and agriculture pressure)
- Mining (mining project/ associated infrastructure and increased traffic)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric (Flooding, desertification and windblown sand erosion)
- Management systems / conservation plan

Since 2023:

- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1336/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 November 2023, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party that the property would be the subject of a report on its state of conservation to be presented at the 46th session of the Committee, in order to better assess the overall state of conservation in the context of the ongoing conflict in Sudan. On 27 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1336/documents/>, and presents the following:

- The National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) has almost halted all activities;
- The last site visits to Naqa and Musawwarat es Sufra took place in July 2023. Further information has been provided by site guards: these two sites are surrounded by landmines, and at some point had the presence of armed forces. Robbery at the archaeological mission's house in Naqa, and evacuation of tourism police at both sites prior to combats in the area are also reported;
- In Meroe, massive displacement of population escaping from war zones, resulted in uncontrolled site visitation, posing a threat to monuments (graffiti, falling stones, etc.), and increased housing construction within the buffer zone. The earthen dyke built to protect the Royal City from flooding has degraded due to animal crossing and looting of raw material;
- All scientific missions, mainly funded by the Qatar Sudan Archaeological Project (QSAP), have been suspended. Unfinished conservation projects or recent excavations are putting the structures at risk;

- Direct impacts from severe weather conditions, such as windblown sand combined with heavy rain, have been observed through sand accumulation, surface erosion, evidence of humidity and salt deposits on stone surfaces along with an increase of vegetation on open-air sites;
- Proposals for future conservation measures are made. In Meroe, they include the removal of accumulated sand, urgent conservation works, rehabilitation of the Hinkel House as a site museum to respond to the increase in visitor numbers, backfilling of Amun Temple, fencing, reduction of the buffer zone as well as planning land use and community awareness. In Naqa, they include relocation of all artefacts stored in the mission's house and increasing the number of site guards.

This information has also been shared during the regular meetings organised by UNESCO for the State Party and its partners to monitor the situation in Sudan during the conflict.

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

The ongoing instability in Sudan, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, is of great concern, and has affected the management capabilities at the property. Several statements were issued by UNESCO, ICOMOS and ICCROM calling for the safeguarding of cultural heritage. It is recommended that the Committee call on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property.

The crisis has posed new challenges in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, and the UNESCO mission for the Assessment of Impact of 2020 floods on World Heritage and Archaeological Sites in Sudan. The efforts and commitment of the State Party, despite these new challenges are acknowledged.

The 2019 Advisory mission recommended the adjustment of the administrative and management structures of the property; control of development pressure; the implementation of tourism management; revision of the Royal Bath Shelter detailed documents; the backfilling of Amun Temple; the preparation of a conservation manual; the relocation of the site museum at the facility area (Meroe) and the reconsideration of the road infrastructure inside the property (Musawwarat es Sufra).

The 2020 UNESCO mission recommended the establishment of disaster risk management in line with a national flood risk management network and based on inter-institutional cooperation; the re-establishment of historical drainage systems and the evaluation of their effectiveness; and the setting up of structures to prevent damages from floods where necessary.

Sand dunes and flooding have been identified among the main decay factors. Sand dunes result from an annual cumulative process and could be held back by green belts. In 2022, within a project funded by France, NCAM removed sand at several pyramids and initiated the cultivation of a green belt. Further support to sustain the mitigation measures is needed.

The State Party has reported on proceeding with the rehabilitation of Hinkel House in Meroe as a site museum. In line with the 2019 mission recommendation regarding this project, it would be important to consider relocating the site museum project within the new entrance facility building, which would be beneficial to the commercial facilities as well as for the visitor experience. All suggestions of backfilling are welcome in the absence of maintenance, after documentation and in conformity with international standards. Workshops centred on awareness and communication are also welcome. Pressure in claiming land for settlement or farming is increasing and is creating a direct threat. In the absence of governance and sufficient protection measures, there are threats of illegal activities. Even so, this critical situation does not justify a buffer zone reduction. Adapting protective measures in full coordination with all stakeholders, should be implemented. Any proposal for boundary modification should be justified in terms of ensuring the full protection of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

In the framework of the project "Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage" funded by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, capacity building on Crisis Response, Damage and Risk Assessment and Mitigation, and First Aid for Sudan's Heritage has been provided (two workshops), in addition to support to the monitoring of cultural heritage in Sudan.

It is recommended that the Committee continue to call upon the international community and all scientific missions involved in the property to support urgent protection and management measures through financial and technical assistance, to be implemented once security conditions permit. This may also include providing all necessary support and adequate documentation to NCAM.

The property is facing several threats and new challenges, and hence it is recommended to closely monitor the situation and to request an updated state of conservation report by 1 February 2025 for examination at the 47th session of the Committee, considering that the urgent conservation needs of

this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Expresses its deep concern over the armed conflict which erupted in April 2023 and the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, affecting site management capabilities and posing a threat to the property, and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;
3. Commending the State Party for its efforts to ensure the protection of the property, monitor and assess its current condition in spite of the difficult prevailing context, requests the State Party to continue these efforts to the extent possible, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground;
4. Recalls the recommendations of the 2019 Advisory mission to the property, and accordingly, also requests the State Party to give due consideration to the relocation of the proposed museum to the new entrance facility building, which would be beneficial to the commercial facilities as well as for the visitor experience;
5. Reminds the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information of any future works that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and that any proposal for boundary modification should be justified in terms of ensuring the full protection of the property and its OUV;
6. Takes note of the project “Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage” funded by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, and calls on all States Parties of UNESCO to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the Heritage Emergency Fund;
7. Also calls for an increased mobilisation of the international community and all scientific missions involved in the property to support the State Party’s efforts, including by providing the necessary technical assistance and adequate documentation to the State Party;
8. 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, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

30. Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan) (C 1073)

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 N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2004-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 118,900

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 38,398 by the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the development of a sustainable tourism plan; 20,374 USD by the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the implementation of the World Heritage Committee Decisions in relation to Boundaries and Strategic Conservation; USD 19,798 from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund; 25,000 EUR from the French Government for mitigation measures at both cultural World Heritage properties in Sudan; USD 67,510 from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund for Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage.

Previous monitoring missions

2004, 2006, 2007: World Heritage Centre missions; February 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission, February 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Land conversion
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric (Deterioration as a result of exposure to difficult environmental conditions such as wind with sand and floods; desertification)
- Buildings and Development (Urban encroachment; Housing)
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems / management plan (Absence of a management plan with official commitment)
- Armed conflict

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit an updated report on the state of conservation report of the property, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023). Since 15 April 2023, Sudan has been facing an armed conflict impacting its cultural heritage. Some information about the property has been gathered during regular meetings organised by UNESCO with the State Party and its partners to monitor the situation of cultural heritage in the prevailing context, as follows:

- The National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) has almost halted all activities;
- All scientific missions, mainly funded by the Qatar Sudan Archaeological Project (QSAP), have been suspended, as well as those related to the project supported by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) and the UNESCO project funded through the Kingdom of the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to assist in the finalization of the 5-year action plan, defining the property's boundaries, and addressing gaps identified in the Management Plan;
- The property is not directly impacted by the conflict; however, it is not well guarded and secured;
- Massive displacement of the population, who are escaping from war zones, is creating new pressures on the property (agricultural activities, vehicles within the property, high number of uncontrolled visits, etc.), which are being addressed through community engagement activities.

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

The ongoing instability in Sudan, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, is of great concern, and has affected the management capabilities at the property. Several statements were issued by UNESCO, ICOMOS and ICCROM calling for the safeguarding of cultural heritage. It is recommended that the Committee call on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property.

The State Party did not provide an updated report on the state of conservation of the property. According to information provided by the State Party during online meetings, recent activities have focused on community engagement, with awareness raising activities targeting children and youth, and including guided visits of the site and museum. All of these activities are to be welcomed as they contribute to enhanced protection of the property.

In the current context, it is recommended that the State Party assess the impact of the conflict on the property, when the conditions allow. In the framework of the project "Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage" funded by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, capacity building on Crisis Response, Damage Risk Assessment and Mitigation, and First Aid for Sudan's Heritage has been provided (two workshops), in addition to supporting the monitoring of cultural heritage in Sudan. Assessing the impacts on this property has not been undertaken yet. A thorough assessment of the state of conservation and management at the property is needed in order to ensure its safeguarding, with both protective and emergency response measures implemented through targeted actions. This includes assessing damage to, or loss of, both moveable and immovable cultural properties, and submitting a report to the World Heritage Centre.

In its last Decision, the Committee continued to express serious concern about the overall state of conservation of the property, which is threatened by alarming levels of fabric degradation as a result of environmental factors, including heavy rainfall and potential flooding, absence of adequate controls, lack of appropriate maintenance, inadequate museum and storage facilities, lack of management planning, ineffective coordination of archaeological missions, absence of an integrated strategy for the conservation of newly-excavated archaeological features, urban encroachment, and development projects, all of which are impacting negatively on the attributes, which support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

In the absence of updated information about the overall state of conservation of the property, and the reported new threats resulting from the ongoing conflict, considerable concerns continue to be raised regarding the protection of the property's OUV. It is recommended to continue to closely monitor the situation and to request an updated state of conservation report by 1 February 2025 for examination at the 47th session of the Committee, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.40, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Expresses its deep concern over the armed conflict which erupted in April 2023 and the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, affecting site management capabilities and posing a threat to the property, and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;*
4. *Continues to express deep concern about the overall state of conservation of the property, which is seriously threatened by alarming levels of fabric degradation as a result of environmental factors, including heavy rainfall and potential flooding, absence of adequate controls, lack of appropriate maintenance, inadequate museum and storage facilities, lack of management planning, ineffective coordination of archaeological*

missions, absence of an integrated strategy for the conservation of newly-excavated archaeological features, urban encroachment, and development projects, all of which are impacting negatively on the attributes, which support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

5. *Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party in implementing community engagement and awareness raising activities and requests the State Party to continue these efforts to the extent possible;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground, and to undertake urgent measures, as conditions allow, and in particular:*
 - a) *Assess in detail, and in close cooperation with UNESCO, the impact of the conflict on the cultural heritage of the region, especially the conservation and management of the property,*
 - b) *Ensure the safeguarding of the property through protective measures, where possible,*
 - c) *Engage, where necessary, in undertaking an emergency response through targeted actions, including by creating a full inventory of archaeological artefacts at the property and their state of conservation;*
7. *Takes note of the project “Urgent Safeguarding Measures for Sudanese Cultural Heritage” funded by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, and calls on all States Parties of UNESCO to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the Heritage Emergency Fund;*
8. *Also calls for an increased mobilisation of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;*
9. *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, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

ASIA AND PACIFIC

31. Angkor (Cambodia) (C 668)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

32. Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana (India) (C 1570)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (i)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1570/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1570/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management and institutional factors (Lack of effective management and adequate protection – require the finalization of the integrated conservation and management plan and the constitution and functioning of “Palampet Special Area Development Authority”)
- Buildings and Development (Tourism development projects)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1570/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1570/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in those reports, as follows:

- The comparative analysis of Kakatiya Temples has been completed. An extensive report is provided;
- The Telangana Provincial Committee serves as the management committee for the property at the state level;
- The Palampet Special Area Development Authority (PSDA) has been established to coordinate the overall governance of the property, including commissioning Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and regulating development. The roles of other institutions that contribute to the management of the property and its buffer zone have been established;
- Capacity-building programmes aimed at enhancing the skills and awareness of the local community and other stakeholders have been implemented;

- The Tourism Development Master Plan (TDMP), under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) scheme and two components, the 10-acre and 27-acre projects, have been completed and assessed through an HIA. The TDMP includes infrastructure located outside the buffer zone. A summary of the TDMP and the HIA are annexed to the report;
- The documentation project for the reassembling and conservation of Kameswara Temple has been completed and is annexed to the report;
- The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has been finalised and approved by the Telangana Provincial Committee. Action Plans and Tourism Master Plans are being prepared and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The CMP also covers the smaller temples and the adjoining natural heritage and canals as a cultural landscape;
- A review of the boundaries and buffer zone of the property has been completed and a map submitted as an annex to the state of conservation report. The Directorate of Town & Country Planning Department suggests using the tentative PSDA boundary for the proposed Master Plan and the spatial planning of the area.

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

The State Party's state of conservation report is extensive and includes numerous annexes. The State Party made progress in responding to Committee requests, including those made at the time of inscription.

The local, national, and international comparative analysis of Kakatiya Temples submitted by the State Party will be reviewed separately by ICOMOS. The completed Conservation Management Plan for the property was submitted and will also undergo separate review by ICOMOS.

Management controls have been clarified, and an appropriate management system has been established. The capacity building and training reported by the State Party are noted and it is recommended that sustained capacity building is implemented regularly for the local communities and related stakeholders on various aspects of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the attributes that contribute to it as well as the management processes.

The extensive documentation of the Kameswara Temple is exemplary, and it is hoped that the reconstruction will progress according to the works schedule submitted by the State Party in 2022.

The submission of maps for the property is noted. These provide delineations that differ from the map submitted at the time of inscription. It is suggested that the Committee requests again that the State Party continue its efforts to submit a boundary modification request to extend the boundaries in line with the Operational Guidelines, as the Committee's recommendation to modify the boundaries of the property was related to the integrity of the property, which could not be considered complete without other elements of the wider temple context.

As reported by the State Party in its nomination dossier, the property receives approximately 200,000 visitors per year. The State Party also stated its ambitions to further develop tourism in the region through its PRASHAD Scheme. The completion of the TDMP is noted, but the State Party has provided only a 5-page summary of the TDMP without any maps or other visual materials. The associated HIA conducted on the Detailed Project Proposal of the PRASHAD Scheme Project reviews two components: a 10-acre site and a 27-acre site, but their territorial relationship to the property is not indicated and only site plans and floor plans of the projects are included. The 10-acre site project seems to be located in the buffer zone to the north-west of the property. In its evaluation of the nomination dossier, ICOMOS stated that the shopping arcade to the north of the temple is likewise situated in a sensitive location and *"its appropriateness will depend on design, height and volume of the structure"*. This project includes upgrading a road that forms the northern boundary of the property complex, which the HIA does not consider.

The HIA requires further development, including taking the property's OUV as a point of departure to thoroughly investigate the proposed developments and their impact on the OUV and its setting throughout the projects' life cycles. Resubmission of the further developed HIA and the full TDMP—which can also provide a context for the review of the updated HIA—is recommended, along with material illustrating project proposals, which should show the territorial relationships of the projects to the property and its buffer zone and include section and elevation drawings.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.160**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the establishment of the Telangana Provincial Committee and the Palampet Special Area Development Authority (PSDA) and the clarification of the roles of other institutions in the management of the property;
4. Also welcomes the revised stakeholder engagement protocols established, as well as the capacity-building activities undertaken and encourages the State Party to continue regular capacity building implementation in the future;
5. Further welcomes the detailed documentation of the components of the Kameswara Temple, and also encourages the State Party to continue with its reassembly and conservation;
6. Welcomes furthermore the submission of the Conservation Management Plan and the comparative analysis of Kakatiya Temples at the local, national, and international levels, and requests the State Party to respond to the recommendations provided in the ICOMOS reviews;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a boundary modification of the extended boundaries of the property, with a view to including relevant elements of the wider temple context of the Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple;
8. Notes the submission of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) undertaken for the proposed Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme project, and also requests the State Party to:
 - a) Further develop the HIA, as a matter of urgency, to place the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) at the core of the assessment, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context,
 - b) Resubmit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, the updated HIA along with illustrative material, including maps depicting the territorial relationships of the projects to the property and its buffer zone, section and elevation drawings, as well as the full Tourism Development Master Plan (TDMP), for review by the Advisory Bodies before taking any further decisions on the implementation of the proposed 10-acre and 27-acre projects;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

33. Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (Japan) (C 972)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 2023: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fire

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/>

Current conservation issues

At the request of the Committee, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property on 13-14 June 2023, and the mission report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/documents/>.

Subsequently, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 31 January 2024, available at the link above, providing the following information:

- The post-disaster reconstruction of the State Hall has advanced and in December 2023, the wooden framework of the State Hall was completed, followed by the exterior and interior moulding, roofing, and painting;
- The Advisory Panel for Technical Examination is working to establish a basic plan for the reconstruction of the other replica buildings. The basic design of the Northern Hall is scheduled to be prepared in the course of 2024;
- “Disaster Mitigation and Fire Prevention Measures for the Northern Hall and Southern Hall and other structures of Shuri-jō Site” are currently being developed by the Advisory Panel for Technical Examination;
- The initiatives to involve stakeholders includes continuous contribution of local experts on the Advisory Panel for Technical Examination, participation of the public, especially the local community, in volunteer activities for the post-disaster reconstruction and learning opportunities for the general public.

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

Sustained efforts at the site should be acknowledged with satisfaction, taking into consideration both the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party and the findings of the 2023 joint Reactive Monitoring mission to the property.

The dedicated work and progress made by the State Party are noted with satisfaction, as they implement previous recommendations. The mission concluded that the fire had minimal impact on the significant attributes of the property or its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as the fire damaged only 0.05% of the archaeological remains, which are the significant attributes of the site. The mission recommended that the State Party continue its on-site recovery actions.

The 2023 mission confirmed that the post-disaster reconstruction of the replica of the main hall, was carefully carried out by protecting the archaeological remains to ensure that these constructions do not have any negative impact on the property's OUV. The integrity of the site is retained by rebuilding the main hall based on the best available evidence and utilising as much of the fabric as could be salvaged from the fire such as foundation stones and tiles, and traditional skills, materials and methods are being used.

Therefore, the Committee may wish to request the State Party to continue its work on post-disaster reconstruction and recovery as planned and documented, in order to prevent any negative impact on the OUV and maintain the integrity and the authenticity of the property.

The "Disaster Mitigation and Fire Prevention Measures for the Northern Hall and Southern Hall and other structures of Shuri-jō Site" is being developed on the basis of the "Fire Prevention Measures for the State Hall of Shuri-jō Site", where extensive fire prevention measures will be introduced.

While the State Party may have focused on fire prevention measures in response to the recent fire at the property, it is also important to recognize that disaster risk is not limited to fire. It is desirable to consider all potential hazards and adequately mitigate and prepare for them.

Furthermore, with adequate training, community could be one of the important contributors in terms of disaster risk management. Training of community volunteers and utilization of traditional social networks for preparedness, response and recovery could be the approach for that.

The State Party is leveraging this post-disaster reconstruction to engage the community and visitors. The community participated in activities contributing to the post-disaster reconstruction, which should strengthen their relationship with the site.

It should be welcomed that the State Party used the post-disaster reconstruction as an opportunity for educational outreach, allowing visitors and community to learn not only about the recovery process, but also about the conservation work for the property, including the high standard of skills and techniques employed. Hence, the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to continue involving them in the recovery process, providing educational and interpretation materials, and invite it to submit a good practice case study based on this experience to be made available to other stakeholders on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's website.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.166, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Takes note of the conclusions of the June 2023 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission that the fire that occurred at the property on 31 October 2019 had minimal impact on the significant attributes of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and requests the State Party to implement fully the mission's recommendations;
4. Acknowledges with appreciation for the State Party's efforts and approach to recovering the property and ensuring that its integrity and authenticity are maintained;
5. Notes that the "Disaster Mitigation and Fire Prevention Measures for the Northern Hall and Southern Hall and other structures of Shuri-jō Site" are being developed and requests that, upon completion, the State Party submit this document to the World Heritage Centre, in one of the working languages of the Committee, for review, and encourages furthermore that these fire protection measures be implemented in the

recovery and the reconstruction of the replica buildings and be extended to other buildings on the Shuri-jō site;

6. *Encourages* the State Party to incorporate a multi-hazard approach that addresses risks from all potential hazards into the disaster risk management plan when it is next updated;
7. *Welcomes* the fact that the State Party used the post-disaster reconstruction as an opportunity for educational outreach, allowing visitors and local community to learn not only about the recovery process, but also about the conservation work required for the property, *encourages* the State Party to continue involving the community in the recovery process, providing educational and interpretation materials to visitors, and *invites* it to submit a good practice case study, to be made available to other World Heritage stakeholders on the World Heritage Centre's website;
8. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

35. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

36. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1979 to 2015)

Total amount approved: USD 417,619

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 10 million (1979-2001) from the International Safeguarding Campaign launched by UNESCO; USD 45,000 (2005) and USD 20,000 (2011) from UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust. Several UNESCO extra-budgetary projects have been approved since 2015 for the emergency safeguarding, conservation and rehabilitation process of the Kathmandu Valley after the

2015 earthquake. They include USD 1 million from the Chinese Hainan Airlines Group (Cihang Foundation), USD 250,000 from the Hong Kong based Fok Foundation, USD 145,000 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust, USD 100,000 from the Nepal Investment Bank, USD 41,804 from French Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance and USD 30,000 from voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund by the Republic of Korea.

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/121/documents/> and provides the following information:

- Following the establishment of the International Scientific Committee for Kathmandu Valley (ISC-KV), required activities for the property have been identified as: (1) post-earthquake recovery and lessons learned, (2) improved management, and (3) capacity building and training. The ISC-KV is facilitating values-based conservation management planning;
- Support from the international community and the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu is welcome, and further assistance is sought for capacity building and training, use of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), procedures for the protection of urban housing and ancient settlements, values-based conservation and management planning and socio-economic revitalisation;
- Most of the conservation and restoration work for earthquake-damaged monuments within the property's seven Protected Monument Zones, has been completed, including Hanuman Dhoka Palace. A tabular summary of post-earthquake conservation status presents completed, ongoing, and remaining works;
- At the recommendation of the ISC-KV, a final 'Recovery Plan: Remaining Activities Report' is in preparation, and a 'Post-disaster Recovery: Lessons Learned Report' will also be prepared;
- The Integrated Management Framework (IMF) has yet to be reviewed; the version submitted with the report is dated 2021;
- The following sector strategies will be prepared: Heritage Conservation Management Plan (including cyclical maintenance), Urban Planning, Subsurface Archaeology, Community and Sustainable Development, Disaster Risk Management, and Visitor Management;
- A new Master Plan for Pashupati Protected Monument Zone was developed by an expert committee and has been adopted. Once translated from Nepali into English, it will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Responses are provided to the main recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission;

- The State Party is committed to recovering urban and ancient settlements within the property. However, the loss of traditional housing remains an issue, as protecting living heritage and private housing presents challenges;
- Uncontrolled development in the monument and buffer zones is being addressed through the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Property Coordinative Working Committee, focusing on minimising the impact of new urban infrastructure;
- The Government of Nepal has adopted Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) procedures. Development works either accord with the IMF or are subject to HIAs;
- The State Party will keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the proposed expansion of the Ring Road at Swayambhu;
- The annexes of the report provide revised documentation for the Patan Durbar Square Monument Zone sewer project.

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

Following the devastating Gorkha earthquake in 2015, progress has been made towards recovery, restoration and reconstruction efforts critical to preserving the integrity, authenticity, and attributes that support the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The formation of the ISC-KV has played a pivotal role, with its recommendations and those from Reactive Monitoring missions significantly contributing to long-term recovery and preservation efforts. The State Party has addressed a wide array of recommendations put forward by the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and during the inaugural meeting of the ISC-KV, highlighting its role in guiding the recovery, conservation, and management of the property. The State Party should continue to provide the Committee with detailed updates on the implementation of the ISC-KV's recommendations. Furthermore, in response to the State Party's requests, the Committee may wish to encourage the international community to provide further resources to ensure the participation of international experts within the ISC-KV framework.

As previously noted, the property's authenticity has been adversely affected by the introduction of new materials and the reconstruction of some buildings based on conjecture rather than scientific evidence. However, despite challenges, much of the essential conservation and restoration work on monuments within the Protected Monument Zones that suffered damage due to the earthquake has been completed. The development of sector strategies to support the ongoing conservation and management of the property is underway, and the ISC-KV's review will be essential to ensure that these strategies comprehensively address the enduring threats to the property.

The "Recovery Plan: Remaining Activities Report" is anticipated to address residual challenges, including the overlooked aspects of urban and ancient settlements, the erosion of traditional housing, and the adverse impacts of unsympathetic development and new urban infrastructure. This Report should be in line with the UNESCO 2011 HUL Recommendation and encapsulate a socio-economic revitalisation programme targeting urban communities, as per Decision **45 COM 7B.45**.

The IMF from 2021—which was re-submitted as a draft without updates or revisions—and the adoption of the new Master Plan for the Pashupati Monument Zone—adopted without undergoing the technical review requested by the Committee and still pending submission in a working language of the Committee—underscores the imperative need for these critical documents to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their implementation.

Furthermore, the State Party should be reminded of the necessity to submit comprehensive details of major projects, including HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines. The Patan Durbar Square Monument Zone sewer project was implemented without demonstrating how feedback from the ICOMOS Technical Review was incorporated. Although the State Party considers that its heritage impacts are only temporary, it warrants the submission of a detailed report on archaeological findings and monitoring upon the project's completion.

The Committee may wish to reiterate its call for a revision of the draft procedures for HIAs in Nepal, urging the State Party to align them with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. The revised draft should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for a review by the Advisory Bodies, to ensure that future projects do not negatively impact World Heritage properties in Nepal.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.45**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the State Party's continued efforts towards the recovery of the property following the 2015 Gorkha earthquake and the significant progress that has been made following the establishment of the International Scientific Committee for Kathmandu Valley (ISC-KV), and notes with appreciation that much of the required conservation and restoration work to earthquake-damaged monuments within the Protected Monument Zones of the property has been completed, and that a series of sector strategies will be prepared to support the ongoing conservation and management of the property, and requests that draft versions of the sector strategies be reviewed and approved by the ISC-KV before being finalised and implemented;
4. Reiterates its previous call for the international community to continue supporting the State Party's recovery work through financial, technical or expert assistance, including capacity building and training, support for local communities and their housing and social needs, and the ongoing resources needed to enable the active participation of international experts in the ISC-KV;
5. Noting the development of the 'Recovery Plan: Remaining Activities Report', and recalling its previous requests that the Recovery Master Plans (RMP) for each Protective Monument Zone of the property be in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), requests that the State Party integrate the RMPs for each Protective Monument Zone of the property within the proposed 'Recovery Plan: Remaining Activities Report', as part of an overall socio-economic revitalization programme for urban communities;
6. Noting that the 2021 version of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) was re-submitted without revisions or updates, requests that it be revised in line with the Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies,
7. Regrets that, despite its earlier requests, the new Master Plan for Pashupati Protected Monument Zone was adopted without a prior Technical Review, and reiterates its previous request that the State Party submit the New Master Plan for the Pashupati Protected Monument Zone and the revised IMF to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to implementation;
8. Welcomes the State Party's report on progress implementing the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and the recommendations of the first meeting of the ISC-KV, and requests the State Party to include reporting on the implementation of the recommendations of the ISC-KV in future reports to the Committee;
9. Notes that the Patan Durbar Square Monument Zone sewer project was implemented without demonstrating how feedback from the ICOMOS Technical Review was incorporated, and requests that a report on this project, including information about archaeological monitoring and discoveries, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre upon completion of the works;
10. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to ensure that the draft procedures and format for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in Nepal be reviewed and revised to be

consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before being used in relation to projects that may affect World Heritage properties in Nepal, and requests that the updated draft document be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

11. *Reminds the State Party that details of major projects that may have an impact on the OUV of a World Heritage property should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, together with any necessary HIAs, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

37. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000 to 2007)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amounts provided: 2006: USD 7,200 from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; 2008-2023: 49,376 EUR and USD 125,000 from the Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance; 2009-2024: USD 2,831,237 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/> and provides the following information:

- On 9 December 2023, the government of Nepal declared Lumbini a “Protected Monument Zone” and is not currently implementing the Lumbini World Peace City project;
- The Integrated Management Framework (IMF) is being implemented;
- The Lumbini Development Trust has formed a World Heritage Coordination Unit;
- Amendment to the Lumbini Development Trust Act and changes to the Trust’s name to reflect its role as site manager of a World Heritage property, as recommended by the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, are under consideration;
- A hydrological assessment report was prepared for the Mayadevi Temple Shelter;
- Guidelines have been provided regarding the Buddhist Meditation Hall (but not in one of the languages of the World Heritage Convention);
- Sector strategy documents were prepared for ‘Disaster Risk Management’, ‘Visitor Management’ and ‘Community and Sustainable Development’;
- A Visitor Management Plan and Physical Plan were developed for the Sacred Garden;
- The Interdisciplinary Technical Meeting (ITM) in November 2022 provided recommendations for immediate and ongoing conservation and monitoring of the Mayadevi Temple Shelter;
- A workshop was held to consider the potential Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu World Heritage nomination, and a landscape and conservation strategy is being prepared;
- Industrial activity in the vicinity of the property remains subject to Supreme Court proceedings;
- New developments include a better lampshade to reduce activity near the Ashoka Pillar, and a wooden praying at the southern and western parts of the sacred pond.

Twenty-five substantial annexes, comprising documents dating between 1985 and 2023, were included with the State Party report and have informed the analysis and conclusions below.

On 19 February 2024, the World Heritage Centre requested information from the State Party, in line with Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines, following third-party reports of proposed development projects in the vicinity of the property. At the time of writing this report, the State Party has not yet responded to this request.

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

The State Party has made positive steps towards the preservation of the property with the declaration of Lumbini as a Protected Monument Zone and the formation of the Lumbini World Heritage Coordination Unit. The adoption of the IMF, previously welcomed by the Committee, emphasizes the need for its thorough implementation, including financial and resource allocation, and the Committee may wish to request an IMF ‘Action Plan’ to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for its review. The initial drafting of sector strategy documents for Disaster Risk Management, Visitor Management, and Community and Sustainable Development represents progress, but strategies for Archaeology, Local Development, Environment, and engagement with Buddhist Organisations remain outstanding.

The halting of the Lumbini World Peace City project mitigates immediate concerns over its potential impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) yet underscores the need for a full and timely Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the project proposal, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, should the project proceed in the future, to be submitted prior to implementation and before any irreversible decision is made. Regrettably, new developments within the Sacred Garden proceeded without such assessment, underlining the importance of comprehensive HIAs for future projects to safeguard the Greater Lumbini Area’s heritage, which should all be carried out in line with the above-mentioned Guidance and Toolkit. The 2023 Planning Team Report annexed to the State Party’s report notes the proposed development of a strategy and action plan to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including Tilaurakot and

Ramagrama, and to reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property. This important strategic document should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is finalised.

The State Party's report, while extensive, largely revisits past findings without adequately addressing recent concerns raised by the World Heritage Committee or the recommendations from the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission. Key issues such as the destruction of remains at an ancient Lumbini village located within the buffer zone and discrepancies between the capacity of the site manager (i.e. the Lumbini Development Trust) and the scale of conservation efforts needed, remain unaddressed. While the report includes 'Conference Centre Guidelines', these have not been provided in one of the working languages of the Committee (English or French) and cannot be considered to answer the Committee's previous request. While the State Party's report mentions a hydrological assessment in response to the need for practical and effective measures to prevent more damage to the remains from the wet environment created by high water levels and water penetration in and around Mayadevi Temple Shelter, identified by the 2022 mission, this assessment was not provided. These omissions are concerning, especially given the Reactive Monitoring mission's conclusion that the property is facing deterioration of its significant attributes, which puts its integrity, authenticity, and thus its OUV at risk.

The condition of the Sacred Garden and Mayadevi Temple Shelter, in particular, continues to alarm, with previous interventions failing to halt deterioration. The need for immediate conservation efforts at the Mayadevi Temple Shelter is critical, as further highlighted by the November 2022 Interdisciplinary Technical Meeting for the Conservation of the Archaeological Remains, which formulated extensive recommendations for protecting archaeological remains and managing the microclimate impact of the shelter and its visitors. Despite these concerns and initial discussions for improvement, tangible actions remain scarce. The alarming state of conservation should be dealt with immediate conservation measures within the Mayadevi Temple Shelter, along with mid- to long-term protection goals, using the latest surveys and technologies available.

The submission of reports on current projects, such as the 2022 Review of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan for Sacred Garden and the 2023 Visitor Management Plan for the Sacred Garden in Lumbini, indicates some movement towards compliance with the Committee's requests. However, the absence of submitted HIAs and the failure to update the 'Guidelines for Heritage Impact Assessment in Nepal' to ensure consistency with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, as requested by the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7B.46**, reflect a concerning gap in adhering to the standards required for the conservation of World Heritage.

Despite some progress, many of the recommendations from the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2023 International Scientific Committee meeting remain unfulfilled. The deteriorating condition of the archaeological remains within the Sacred Garden and the Mayadevi Temple Shelter notably threatens the site's OUV, as per Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines; this is compounded by the absence of significant progress with mitigation, which constitutes an ascertained threat to the OUV of the property. This concerning situation and the evidenced lack of sufficient capacity to address the various issues result in a recommendation to inscribe Lumbini on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This action aims to galvanize more effective conservation efforts and international support to help the State Party address the challenges faced by the property, urging the State Party to work closely with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to establish a roadmap for the site's recovery, including a Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures aligned with the mission's recommendations and the outcomes of the 2023 meeting of the International Scientific Committee.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

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

3. Urges the State Party to facilitate rapid implementation of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the property and to submit the IMF 'Action Plan' to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:
 - a) Fully implement the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2023 International Scientific Committee meeting,
 - b) Ensure that the draft procedures and format for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in Nepal are reviewed to be consistent with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context prior to being adopted,
 - c) Undertake HIAs before any further work occurs within the property or in adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, and ensure that these HIAs and relevant project documentation are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse,
 - d) Submit, in one of the working languages of the World Heritage Committee (English or French), the 'Conference Centre Guidelines' and other relevant information regarding preventive measures to reduce any negative impact of the Buddhist Meditation Hall on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the surrounding landscape and the environment;
5. Notes that the Lumbini World Peace City project is not currently proceeding, but re-iterates its previous request that, if such a project were to be pursued, a comprehensive HIA should be prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to implementation and before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;
6. Notes the preparation of initial sector strategy documents and encourages the State Party to complete the full set of these documents and submit them for review by the International Scientific Committee (ISC) before they are finalised;
7. Notes with concern the condition of the Sacred Garden and Mayadevi Temple Shelter, particularly in relation to potential for damage to the remains from the wet environment created by high water levels and water penetration in and around Mayadevi Temple Shelter, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the hydrological assessment report for the Temple Shelter and details of immediate measures to be undertaken to protect the deteriorating archaeological remains within the Mayadevi Temple Shelter, along with mid- to long-term protection goals, using the latest surveys and technologies available;
8. Requests the State Party to submit the draft strategy and action plan to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is finalised;
9. Regrets that the new developments within the Sacred Garden have been carried out without comprehensive HIA prior to implementation;
10. Requests the State Party to ensure that projects arising from the 2022 Review of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan for Sacred Garden and the 2023 Visitor Management Plan for the Sacred Garden in Lumbini be subject to HIAs, and that these HIAs and any other relevant project documentation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by

the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;

11. *Expresses profound regret that many recommendations of the 2023 International Scientific Committee and the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission are yet to be fulfilled, and in particular that the condition of the Sacred Garden and the archaeological features within the Mayadevi Temple Shelter have not been adequately addressed, despite previous requests;*
12. *Considers that, in conformity with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, the condition of the Sacred Garden exerts a significant negative impact on the property's attributes, and therefore represents an ascertained threat to the OUV of the property, and that the absence of significant progress with the implementation of mitigation measures also constitutes an ascertained threat to the OUV of the property;*
13. ***Decides therefore, in conformity with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, to inscribe Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;***
14. *Requests the State Party to prepare, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures, which must include implementation of previous Committee Decisions, the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2023 meeting of the International Scientific Committee, as well as a timeframe for implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;*
15. *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.*

38. Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (Pakistan) (C 138)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

39. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2014 to 2022)

Total amount approved: USD 75,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 30,000 from the UNESCO Regular Programme Funds for a condition survey of Jam Nizzamuddin tomb (2011); USD 33,000 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the Emergency assessment and immediate response to damages caused by the floods (2012); UNESCO Emergency assistance and immediate response to damages caused by the floods (2012); two phases of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project 'World Heritage, Sustainable Development and Community Involvement' for World Heritage properties in Bangladesh and Pakistan also concern this property (Phase I: 2015-2017 – USD 600,065; Phase II: 2019-2022 – USD 769,741); USD 50,000 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for 'Emergency Conservation of "Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta" World Heritage Site' (2023-2024)

Previous monitoring missions

November-December 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2010: World Heritage Centre fact-finding mission to the property following major floods that devastated the area in August 2010; May 2012: joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2022 and February-March 2023: two UNESCO post-flood emergency missions through World Heritage Emergency International Assistance

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage (resolved for time being)
- Earthquake
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Housing
- Illegal activities
- Land conversion
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Other climate change impacts
- Solid waste
- Flooding (Damage arising from the 2022 monsoon)
- Other Threats: Stability of the foundations (earth mechanics) of the Jam Nizamuddin II tomb

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/>

Current conservation issues

On 22 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/documents>. Progress in addressing the conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions and the response to the 2022 heavy monsoon damage are presented in this report, as follows:

- Actions taken to implement the recommendations of the UNESCO emergency missions of 2022 and 2023, including a damage assessment report for immediate stabilisation works, comprehensive site survey, drainage study, preparation of a visitor management framework, installation of a drainage canal, training activities led by a UNESCO international expert on climate change effects, work on emergency preparedness, and strengthening of documentation efforts for detached pieces and monuments;
- Visitor services were provided for 21 active shrines, thereby supporting ongoing living traditions;
- A comprehensive analytical report (annexed to the State Party report) on the effects of the 2022 monsoon, arising from the two emergency missions, provides an overall assessment of the site's state, the state of the monuments and areas requiring close monitoring, required equipment and a budget estimate, and recommendations on immediate and medium conservation priorities;
- Management tools have been elaborated, including a revised and updated Management Plan, Conservation Plan, and Disaster Risk Response Plan;
- Inspections occur before the monsoon season, and an emergency response team has been designated to undertake urgent maintenance and interventions;

- Mitigation/preparative measures have been identified to address potential natural disasters and climate change impacts;
- Training and capacity building have been organised under the guidance of international experts;
- The installation of the new main gate is complete;
- The intervention on the floor of Mausoleum of Isa Khan Tarkhan II responded to flooding and water ingress issues, replacing flooring from the 1970s that was not part of the original historic fabric;
- An action plan is being prepared for the stabilisation and conservation of the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II;
- Progress is being made with the proposed Minor Boundary Modification and will be submitted in due course.

Funding of USD 50,000 was approved through UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to provide emergency support to the Sheikh Jiyo Tomb and an unknown tomb from the Samma Period (16th-century CE).

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

The State Party's continued efforts following the August 2022 monsoon and in response to the UNESCO emergency missions of November 2022 and February 2023, including preparing a comprehensive analytical report, in developing short-, medium- and long-term action plans, including financial and technical requirements, are commendable. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to undertake the recommended interventions. The Committee may also wish to reiterate the need for ongoing implementation of its previous decisions and all the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission.

The draft Conservation Plan is useful as a targeted response to the 2022 monsoon and to address climate change vulnerability and could include a schedule of specific actions and budgets. The draft Disaster Risk Response Plan is timely and valuable but needs to address a wider range of risks, include a detailed roadmap with priorities, and identify the required resources. The updated Management Plan effectively compiles previous documents and recommendations and integrated revisions on an earlier version. As the over-arching policy document, it should integrate the key elements of the Conservation and the Disaster Risk Response Plans with a clear outline of required actions. It is recommended that all three documents be revised in accordance with the guidance already provided through the ICOMOS Technical Reviews.

The living nature of the property is an important attribute that the State Party also acknowledges. The community's access needs to be sustained while necessary security and safety measures are deployed and conservation activities occur.

The training programme in disaster response is a timely reaction to recent challenges, and the State Party should be encouraged to continue strengthening staff capacities in all conservation areas, including stone conservation and moveable heritage management.

While the completed construction of the main gate and the reasoning behind the new masonry floor of the Mausoleum of Isa Khan Tarkhan II are noted, the State Party is advised to follow paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines by submitting project documentation, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse and before any work commences. This process should also apply to future projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, including the forthcoming action plan for the stabilisation and conservation of the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II.

The State Party's commitment to proceeding with a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines is welcome, and the Committee may request its submission in due course.

Finally, the Committee may wish to acknowledge the recent support from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the conservation of the Sheikh Jiyo tomb and a nearby tomb of the Samma period, identified as a short-term priority by the emergency mission. Further assistance from the international community should be encouraged to elaborate costed action plans in the Conservation Plan, Disaster Risk Response Plan and Management Plan and prepare a technical proposal for emergency and short-term interventions for prioritized monuments. Further assistance could also be encouraged to cope with

the estimated loss of USD 6.1 million in the culture and heritage sector of Pakistan, as evaluated by 2022 Post Disaster Needs Assessment.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.170, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party's continued actions following the August 2022 monsoon and floods' impacts, in particular its close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre regarding the recommendations of the two UNESCO emergency missions in 2022 and 2023, and for the elaboration of the analytical report and the recommendations for conservation actions, and endorses the recommendations of the analytical report, including:
 - a) Prioritizing the emergency conservation of two key monumental tombs and four platform tombs,
 - b) Conducting an extensive drainage plan study and excavation with more detailed documentation,
 - c) Addressing management and governance through the participation of international members to the Steering Committee,
 - d) Monitoring of the work of Heritage Foundation Pakistan and that of the Endowment Fund Trust,
 - e) Reinstalling polycarbonate crack monitors at the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II and other locations,
 - f) Procuring an orthophoto of the entire site to support a topographic drainage map and an update of the general survey,
 - g) Enforcing a strict ban on smoking on-site, and improving of water supply,
 - h) Allocating funds to procure necessary equipment;
4. Requests the State Party to continue addressing its previous decisions and the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, ensuring overall site monitoring, and applying on-site preparative and mitigation measures;
5. Welcomes the elaboration of the Conservation Plan, the Disaster Risk Review Plan and the updated Management Plan, requests that these important documents be refined and revised in accordance with the ICOMOS Technical reviews before they are finalised and implemented, and notes that the inclusion of action plans and costed schedules, including preparation of a technical proposal for emergency and short-term interventions for prioritised monuments with cost estimates, may assist with fundraising and securing further international support;
6. Notes with satisfaction that the property continues to play an important role for the nation and the local population and requests the State Party to ensure that the property's living nature be sustained while security and safety and conservation works are conducted;

7. *Requests the State Party to continue pursuing opportunities to strengthen staff capacities in all areas of conservation, but particularly relating to stone conservation, moveable heritage and detached architectural elements, as well as risk management and preparedness;*
8. *Noting the explanation on the rationale for interventions on the Mausoleum of Isa Khan Tarkhan II and the main gate, invites the State Party to submit all necessary technical documents and impact assessments when considering projects within the inscribed zone, buffer zone and wider setting of the property that may affect its Outstanding Universal Value, in conformity with the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit detailed project documentation for the proposed conservation works to the mausoleum of Jam Nizamuddin II, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, at its earliest opportunity, a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification in line with Paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines and reflecting the boundaries identified in 2013, along with a regulatory plan for the proposed buffer zone, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
11. *Appreciates the financial support provided through the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, which enables immediate intervention to safeguard two tombs identified as short-term priorities by the emergency mission, and calls upon the international community to provide further support and technical assistance to strengthen the management framework and preserve other priority monuments within the property;*
12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

40. Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (Republic of Korea) (C 1319bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2009

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1319/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1319/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2023: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (Development of a sustainable tourism management plan)
- Commercial development; Housing (High-rise developments in the vicinity of the component parts)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1319/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1319/documents/>. The report provides an update on the state of conservation of this serial World Heritage property comprising 40 tombs across 18 clusters and on the implementation of the Committee's decisions, as follows:

- The State Party has implemented recommendations made at the time of inscription in 2010, including development guidelines for the tomb clusters and a Sustainable Tourism Management Plan;
- An ongoing lawsuit involves already completed high-rise construction near the Jangneung (W6) cluster, with the Supreme Court's final ruling to determine if developers violated the Cultural Heritage Protection Act being pending at the time of reporting;
- Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are underway for similar conservation issues at Seooreung (W1) and Taereung (M3) clusters to guide future development projects. The State Party has updated spatial information for land use and plans to expand drone monitoring for better oversight of the tombs;
- Amendments to the Special Act on Conservation, Management, and Utilization of World Heritage and the establishment of a Standing Advisory Committee aim to strengthen heritage protection;
- In March 2023, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission visited the property at the invitation of the State Party and provided guidance concerning the conservation of the tomb clusters in the face of growing development pressure;
- Restoration projects include addressing the retention of Olympic sports facilities at the Taereung (M3) cluster through impact assessments and planning for the demolition and future use of some of the facilities. The first phase of restoration and relocation plans for the Korea National University of Arts near Uireung (M5) cluster is complete, with further demolitions planned;
- The State Party emphasizes its commitment to improving awareness, conservation, and dissemination of the significance of the royal tombs, working closely with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

At the request of the State Party, the Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7B.48** (Riyadh, 2023) is scheduled for late 2024, due to planning difficulties in the first half of the year, especially in the timeframe required to finalise the report for review by the World Heritage Committee at the present session.

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

Since 2010, development guidelines have been in place to ensure that developments near the component parts of the property respects crucial sightlines, including key views from the tomb mounds. These views, chosen based on geomantic principles (*pungsu*), are vital to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), which emphasises the need for clear views of the surrounding landscape from the tomb mounds, located up the flank of a mountain ridge. This property, which hosts ancestral rites 54 times annually across its 18 clusters, has retained its ritualistic and living heritage significance, underlining the importance of its spiritual, symbolic, and geomantic attributes to people today.

The Jangneung (W6) component part remains a significant concern, as developers first bypassed required inputs from the Cultural Heritage Administration (since May 2024: Korea Heritage Service, thereafter KHS), then withdrew from negotiations on building height reductions before completing the project as initially designed in 2022, compromising the component part's capacity to carry the property's OUV, as illustrated in the March 2023 Advisory mission report (see <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1319/documents/>). It is noted that KHS lost all court cases against the developers in 2019-2022, along with the subsequent appeals in 2023, which all favoured the developers. Although further legal action is underway, the developments' impact on the component part will remain.

This situation highlights the need for improved management processes that protect the property's OUV from projects located beyond designated buffer zones that may still affect the property.

Involving local communities and civil society in monitoring the property's 40 component parts has been prioritized in the Tourism Management Plan, last updated in 2021. This involvement is crucial for early detection of potentially harmful development projects that may be outside of the immediate legal remit of KHS. The establishment of Standing Advisory Committees, which include residents and local officials gathering for regular component part-level meetings and an annual coordination meeting at the property level, has great potential to enhance protection and early detection mechanisms.

Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines requires States Parties to ensure that impact assessments “*be carried out as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property*” to identify “*development alternatives, as well as both potential positive and negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and to recommend mitigation measures against degradation or other negative impacts on the cultural or natural heritage within the property or its wider setting*”. In this framework, the adoption of the “*Special Act on Conservation, Management and Utilisation of World Heritage*” in October 2023, establishing a national framework for impact assessments, represents a significant step forward. This is complemented by the translation into Korean and dissemination of the Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. It is noted that HIAs are underway for public housing developments near the Changneung (Seoreung cluster, W1) and Taereung (M3) component parts and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The importance of integrating the Advisory mission's recommendations should be highlighted, particularly regarding height limits for commercial developments.

Overall progress in implementing the Advisory mission's recommendations, including updated spatial data for buffer zones and the use of drones to monitor sightlines and developments, demonstrates a proactive approach to safeguarding the property's OUV, and could constitute an interesting good practice example. The establishment of a KHS Task Force to identify measures to prevent unauthorized developments should also be welcomed. The scheduled demolitions at Taereung (M3) and Uireung (M5) component parts are noted, including the lack of negative impacts on the property and even the potential for positive impacts overall.

Finally, it is noted that the State Party intends to invite the Reactive Monitoring mission to the property requested in Decision **45 COM 7B.48** in the later part of the year.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.48** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Considering the property's continued spiritual, symbolic and geomantic characteristics and its living heritage dimensions as an active ritual site, and recalling that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is underpinned by the selection of tomb sites based on geomantic principles (pungsu) and, therefore, by key sightlines from the tomb mounds as well as from the visitors' standpoint,*
4. *Notes that guidelines for appropriate development in the vicinity of the component parts of the property have been in place since at least 2010;*
5. *Welcomes the State Party's progress in implementing the recommendations of the March 2023 Advisory mission to the property, especially the updated spatial information collected about the buffer zone of each component part, encourages the State Party to expand the use of 3D modelling and drone-based monitoring to gather reliable data on building heights, sightlines and other key information to assess the current situation of*

each component and potential development projects, and invites the State Party to share this good practice example in due course with the World Heritage Centre for further dissemination among World Heritage stakeholders;

6. Reiterates its concern about the Jangneung (W6) component part, especially since the developments' impacts compromise the component part's capacity to contribute to the property's OUV, as illustrated in the previously endorsed Advisory mission report, and notes with concern that the Korea Heritage Service (KHS) lost its appeals of earlier judicial rulings which had already been adjudicated in favour of the three development companies involved;
7. Notes again with concern that housing developments in the wider setting of the component parts may have adverse impacts on the pungsu, and recalls the requirements for impact assessments for major projects within or around a World Heritage property outlined in Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Welcomes the establishment of Standing Advisory Committees involving residents in the vicinity of the component parts and local government officials, and emphasises that the involvement of civil society represents a key opportunity to monitor the 40 tombs that make up this property and could help alert to development initiatives located outside of the KHS' immediate legal remit;
9. Welcomes the adoption, in October 2023, of the "Special Act on Conservation, Management and Utilisation of World Heritage", which establishes a national framework for impact assessments, along with the Korean-language translation and dissemination of the Guidance and Toolkit of Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
10. Notes again that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) remain underway for the public housing development projects at Changneung (Seoorung cluster, W1) and Taereung (M3), encourages the State Party to give full consideration to the recommendations of the 2023 Advisory mission in this process, especially concerning the scope of the HIA process and the height of proposed commercial developments, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit these to the World Heritage Centre upon completion, for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decision is made;
11. Welcomes the creation of a KHS Task Force to identify measures that would prevent similar unauthorised development from occurring at other component parts or properties, and encourages the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of its progress;
12. Takes note of the progress accomplished with scheduled building demolitions around the Taereung (M3) and Uireung (M5) component parts and the State Party's assurances that they will have no negative impact, or even beneficial impacts, on the property's OUV;
13. Takes note of the State Party's intention to invite the Reactive Monitoring mission to the property requested in Decision **45 COM 7B.48** in late 2024 to assess thoroughly the overall state of conservation of the property, the cumulative impacts of planned or ongoing housing and commercial developments, their existing and potential impacts on key sightlines from the property, as well as any other factors affecting the property's OUV at all 18 tomb clusters;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a progress 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.

41. Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka) (C 451)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1997)

Total amount approved: USD 3,334

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 1994: ICOMOS Mission to Sri Lanka; December 1998: ICOMOS Monitoring Mission to Dambulla, Kandy and Galle, Sri Lanka; March 2001: Reactive Monitoring Mission to the Ancient City of Sigiriya; 2002: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; November 2007: UNESCO expert Advisory mission; April/May 2008: UNESCO New Delhi Office Advisory mission; February 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development
- Illegal activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Marine transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents/>. Progress in a number of areas is presented, as follows:

- To date, approximately 75% of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and 50% of the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan (STMP) have been implemented. Most recently, this has included:
 - Preparation of an inventory of heritage buildings, which will also be used as a planning tool,
 - The Netherlands Alumni Association of Lanka developed a photogrammetric model of the property as a tool to support management decision-making,
 - Draft amendments to the Act of the Galle Heritage Foundation (GHF), which will grant them greater management powers, are being finalized before submission to Parliament for approval,
 - Amendments to the regulations for planning and development in the property will soon be adopted by the Urban Development Authority,
 - Of the five state-owned properties identified as pilot projects for adaptive re-use, two are now conserved and in use, with a third project under way,
 - A Heritage Award Scheme is being used to encourage residents to remain in the historic houses,
 - GHF was rebranded and its social media relaunched,
 - A first Heritage Week celebrated 35 years of World Heritage status with a programme of public events,

- Five trainees were recruited and provided with interpretation training,
- A Tourist Police Unit was established for visitor safety and informal vendors were provided with identity cards and a code of conduct;
- A Rapid Conservation Survey was completed for the historic buildings, based on the newly adopted retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV). The identified conservation priorities will be used in a Conservation Master Plan;
- Planning applications to buildings within the property are reviewed by the Galle Heritage Planning Committee before approval is granted to ensure that there are no negative impacts on the OUV;
- The port development plan has been revised; consequently, an Archaeological Impact Assessment (as per national legislation) and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) addressing the OUV have been requested;
- The GHF reports to have adequate human resources for management of the property, with 28 staff directly employed by GHF and others provided by partner institutions. The GHF covers its staffing costs through ticket income and space rentals but has no budget for capital expenditure.

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

Progress has been made on the Committee's requests, in particular the newly adopted RSOUV (Decision **45 COM 8E**) being used to inform a variety of activities, including planning consent and conservation work, so that all activities are based on a shared understanding of the property's OUV.

The State Party has continued to implement as much of the IMP and STMP as possible and have achieved much, despite the country's ongoing economic crisis. Given the circumstances, instead of attempting to complete these plans, the State Party proposes updating and combining them into a single management plan, to be prepared in 2024. Given that the IMP and STMP were prepared in 2015 and 2016 respectively, a new planning cycle to merge the two plans, and in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation), seems appropriate. This could respond to the newly adopted RSOUV, the improved state of conservation and presentation of the property, and the rapid conservation survey to identify clear management objectives. The new tools available to support management and greater clarity about the GHF's role and resources will allow for a better implementable list of actions to be included in the management plan. The Department of Conservation is also preparing a complementary conservation plan based on the identified conservation priorities.

Additional information provided on recent development and conservation projects within the property and the approval process mostly relates to permissions for repairs, restoration and adaptive re-use of historic buildings within the property, which the relevant authorities review on the basis of their potential impacts on its OUV. Recent restoration activities, which include landscaping to the fort and conservation of state-owned buildings, are welcome. The project documentation provided shows that fair conservation approaches are applied, but that these could be further improved.

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority has revived the project for the expansion of the existing modern port at Galle, which is located on the opposite, east side of the bay outside of the buffer zone. The drawing sheets provided as an Annex do not show many significant changes to the project that was last examined by the Committee (Decision **42 COM 7B.17**): the location and dimensions of the breakwaters, wharf, approach channels and turning circle remain the same as the 2013 project, while the HIA recommended considering moving the proposed infrastructure away from the centre of the bay and closer to the existing port, in order to avoid any potential negative impacts on OUV. Instead, the two changes identified in the limited documentation provided are the removal of a breakwater at the existing port and the reclamation of a 40 ha area of land to the south of the port.

In particular, the latter would need an evaluation to understand its potential impact on Galle Bay as a whole and on the neighbouring Rumassala Marine Sanctuary and its corals. It is reassuring that the request for impact assessments has already been made. The Committee may wish to request that no action be undertaken until the Advisory Bodies have been able to positively review these plans, informed by completed impact assessments.

Information is provided on GHF's resources and needs, with a conclusion that staffing is adequate for the management of the property. However, capital for conservation activities remains a challenge, and the GHF continues to rely on external loans and grants. The State Party acknowledges an ongoing need for capacity building, and the Advisory Bodies remain at their disposal to provide support.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.172** and **45 COM 8E**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the State Party's ongoing efforts for the protection, conservation and presentation of the property and its use of the recently adopted retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to inform planning, management and conservation activities;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue developing its restoration and re-use approaches and methods to maximise the retention of historically authentic building fabric in the property;
5. Notes the continued implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan (STMP), welcomes the State Party's plans to revise and combine these into a single updated management plan and to prepare a conservation master plan, that is recommended to be in line with the implementation of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation); and requests that, once ready, these documents be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Notes that the Galle Heritage Foundation (GHF) has suitable staffing but lacks sufficient financial resources to undertake conservation activities and requests the State Party to investigate mechanisms, such as a tourism levy, to ensure that the GHF has sustainable financial resources to undertake conservation activities;
7. Requests that the Heritage Impact Assessment for the revised port development project be carried out in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, focusing on the property's OUV, and also requests the State Party to submit information, including plans, timelines and completed impact assessment reports for the revised port project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decisions on the implementation of the port project are made;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

42. Itchan Kala (Uzbekistan) (C 543)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/543/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/543/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 2019: USD 43,115 UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for Building capacity in managing World Heritage properties, interconnection of development and heritage preservation in Uzbekistan

Previous monitoring missions

1998: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management activities
- Restoration works conducted using non-traditional building material (issue resolved)
- Tourism infrastructure
- Conservation issues relating to termite attacks on wooden beams, and to salinity in walls impacting on ceramic tiles

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/543/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/543/documents/>. Progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in those reports, as follows:

- A Management Plan for the property has been prepared and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- The management team in the Department of Cultural Heritage of the Khorezm region has been supplemented with additional staff. A Chief Specialist for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Zones has been appointed towards the creation of an "Itchan Kala World Heritage Management Unit";
- The Project of Detailed Planning of Historical Centre of Khiva (PDP) was halted in 2018 to allow the protection of the proposed buffer zone to be included. It is still under review and is progressing with the relevant Advisory Bodies and responsible organisations;
- The erosion of mud walls is a persistent problem across the whole property that requires ongoing maintenance and there is an insufficient number of qualified staff to address this issue;
- Termite infestations remain as a major threat to the stability of structures. The Tash Khauli Palace and Juma Mosque have been impacted, and termites caused the loss of houses in the recent past;
- A researcher at Mamun Academy is developing a detailed programme of termite investigation;
- New guidelines will ensure the use of chemical treatments and termite-resistant timbers for new construction and pest management;
- Rising damp and salinity are negatively impacting the decorative tiled walls as a result of the lack of drain maintenance and the absence of sanitation and water system networks for many houses;

- The provision of water and drainage infrastructure for all households of Itchan Kala is being considered;
- Conservation projects have been undertaken at the fortified walls of Itchan Kala, the Muhammad Amin Inoq Madrasah, the Tash Khauli Palace and the Anushakhan Hammam, and the pillars of the Juma Mosque;
- A 10-year conservation/restoration programme is being prepared by the Main Department on Preservation and Restoration of Sites of Cultural Heritage;
- For the proposed buffer zone, work is underway to address the recommendations of the Committee relating to management and protection policies after it referred the proposal for a buffer zone back to the State Party in 2016.

The details of the restoration of the Juma Mosque provided by the State Party in May 2023 were reviewed by ICOMOS, and the State Party provided supplementary information in March 2024, which is subject to a further ICOMOS Technical Review at the time of writing the present document.

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

The completion of the Management Plan is to be welcomed, as is an increase in staff for the current management team and the possible creation of a distinct “Itchan Kala World Heritage Management Unit”. The Management Plan is currently being reviewed by ICOMOS.

Work is still ongoing to revise the PDP, which was halted following an Advisory mission in 2018 to allow it to be adapted to control more effectively the outer town of Dishan Kala, which was being proposed as the buffer zone. The revised PDP must ensure that Dishan Kala and its important buildings are preserved to support the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). This work has not yet been completed but is urgently needed to provide effective control measures and a defined buffer zone. Although the Committee has twice requested a phased dialogue with the Advisory Bodies to support this process, this has not yet taken place, which is regrettable.

The conservation and monitoring activities undertaken by the Cultural Heritage Department of the Khorezm Region in January 2024 have set out very clearly the key conservation issues affecting this property. There is a lack of resources to address some of these issues, such as the lack of staff qualified to undertake the regular maintenance of mud walls. However, progress is being made in other areas, such as termite infestation surveys, including the development of guidelines to ensure that termite-resistant timbers are used for new construction and chemical treatments are applied to existing timbers, in conjunction with pest management procedures for all buildings. Additionally, a researcher at Mamun Academy is developing a detailed programme of termite investigation/monitoring to bring this activity up to international standards. The means required to address other issues, such as rising damp and salinity in walls, which can lead to irreversible damage to decorative tiling, are still being discussed. These issues mainly result from the lack of drain maintenance and the absence of sanitation and water system networks for many houses. This latter issue is now under consideration.

The new generic approaches being developed and considered for conservation issues are to be welcomed as a means to define preventative conservation measures, avoid the unnecessary loss of important fabric or even whole buildings, and identify the resources, technical knowledge and expertise needed to define and implement those measures.

The Technical Review by ICOMOS of the restoration project of the Juma Mosque welcomed the initiative to restore this exceptional building, but the minimal level of detail provided to justify the replacement of a high proportion of the timberwork in some areas, along with the choice of materials for the replacement roof, are preoccupying. Supplementary information provided by the State Party on 16 March 2024, including a Heritage Impact Assessment and detailed technical specifications for investigation and conservation interventions, will be the subject of further review.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.49**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the completion of the Management Plan and an increase in staff for the current management team with a view to creating a distinct “Itchan Kala World Heritage Management Unit”;
4. Notes that work on the revision of the Project of Detailed Planning of Historical Centre of Khiva (PDP) is still ongoing to allow it to control more effectively the outer town of Dishan Kala, as the proposed buffer zone, as well as the property, urges the State Party to prioritise the completion of the revised PDP, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to initiate dialogue with the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible to facilitate this process;
5. Also notes that conservation and monitoring activities undertaken by the Cultural Heritage Department of the Khorezm Region in January 2024 have set out clearly some of the key conservation issues affecting this property and the approaches to address some of them;
6. Expresses concern over the lack of expertise to undertake the regular maintenance of mud walls, which is a fundamental issue for the property and its immediate setting, and requests the State Party to define a training programme to address this issue, in association with the Advisory Bodies;
7. Welcomes the new generic approaches being developed and considered for conservation, including:
 - a) Guidance to ensure termite control in new and existing buildings,
 - b) Research to develop a detailed programme of whole-building termite investigation/monitoring to bring this activity up to international standards,
 - c) Considering the provision of sanitation and water system infrastructure for all houses in order to control salination and damp in walls, which can lead to irreversible damage to tiling;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, at the initial stage of development, the details of the programme for the provision of sanitation and water infrastructure for all houses in relation to archaeological and stability considerations, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Acknowledges the detailed supplementary information provided for the conservation of the Juma Mosque, which will be subject to a further ICOMOS Technical Review;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

43. Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long – Hanoi (Viet Nam) (C 1328)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

MIXED PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

44. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania, North Macedonia) (C/N 99quater)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

45. Laponian Area (Sweden) (C/N 774)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

46. Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche (Mexico) (C/N 1061bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

AFRICA

47. Ennedi Massif: Natural and Cultural Landscape (Chad) (C/N 1475)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

48. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (C/N 39bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

ARAB STATES

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

50. Białowieża Forest (Belarus, Poland) (N 33ter)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

51. Wadden Sea (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands) (N 1314ter)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

52. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

53. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

54. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

AFRICA

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

57. Ivindo National Park (Gabon) (N 1653)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

58. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) (N 25)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

ARAB STATES

61. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2008

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2017-2023)

Total amount approved: USD 131,560

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2012: IUCN mission; June 2014: IUCN/Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / management plan
- Legal frameworks
- Governance
- Buildings and development
- Ground transport infrastructure: road network
- Biological resource use/modification
- Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species: absence of adequate biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of invasive alien species
- Livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animals
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Solid waste: primarily in and around main settlements
- Civil unrest: unrest inhibiting management and access of international experts and capacity building support
- Climate change and severe weather events: cyclones, storms
- Impact of oil spill pollution from January 2023

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023).

As reported in the previous session, in late January 2023, a spill occurred from an oil tanker stranded at the Delisha Nature Sanctuary since November 2019. In the framework of the 2023 Emergency Assistance funding for “Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) Oil Spill Response Action” (IA n°3415), several activities have been implemented through the UNESCO Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen, the report of which was available to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in May 2024. A UNESCO Office field mission in November 2023 revealed that the spill had affected a considerable proportion of the coast of Delisha and that the Gulf Dove tanker still contains some residual oil derivatives, while the tanker is expected to be dismantled soon. Despite the fact that the coast had been mostly cleaned by local authorities and community organizations, a detailed risk assessment and action plan along with

the relevant training were deemed necessary. The oil spill response included a training in November 2023 by an oil spill expert and a biodiversity expert, in line with the training course of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The training included planning for and addressing oil spills effectively, working with local communities, as well as providing an overview of effective oil spill response, modalities to create a contingency plan, aerial surveillance and at sea response techniques, amongst others. A risk assessment was developed outlining levels of risks, preparedness and resources at risk in the property, as well as an action plan for the oil spill response, recommendations for dismantling the Gulf Dove tanker, and highlighting the importance of developing local environmental sensitivity mapping and contingency plans, as well as building capacities for preparedness and response. Implementation of the action plan would require additional funding to address future issues.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is regrettable that the State Party has not provided a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session. The lack of reporting raises concerns and makes it difficult for the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to monitor the state of conservation of this property and provide an in-depth analysis to the Committee.

It is recalled that the property, as reported in the last state of conservation report and reflected in Decision **45 COM 7B.12**, remains threatened by pressures such as infrastructure development, invasive species, as well as limited funding and management capacity resulting from the conflict in Yemen.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain in discussions with the State Party to undertake the pending joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, which remains urgent especially given the lack of updated information on the state of conservation of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee regrets that no information on the state of conservation of the property has been provided and request the State Party to provide information on the implementation of the recommendations made in Decision **45 COM 7B.12**.

The outcomes of the implementation of the 2023 Emergency Assistance funding have provided an action plan and recommendations to avoid further oil spills from the vessel itself, as well as in terms of preparedness and capacity building in case of future similar incidents. Noting that further resource mobilization is needed to implement those actions as well as support the effective protection and management of the property, it is recommended to continue to call on the international community for its support.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.12, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit the requested state of conservation report, and notes with concern that the lack of submission by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Also recalling the high level of endemism in the property and the potentially devastating impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), welcomes the activities undertaken under the UNEP-GEF programme to establish port quarantine measures and prepare a participatory IAS control strategy, and also requests the State Party, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to urgently finalise such IAS control strategy and implement biosecurity measures to ensure the threat is effectively managed;*
5. *Takes note that developments were previously reported to be mostly limited to urban development zones, that development in the buffer zone is regulated by environmental*

standards, and that these standards are being incorporated in the review and update of the Conservation Zoning Plan (CZP), and further requests that the CZP is finalised as a matter of priority and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

6. Noting previous reports of impacts in some national parks or protected areas, requests furthermore the State Party to provide further information regarding these impacts in relation to the OUV, and to clarify how the initiation or update of protected areas management plans to address all sensitive biodiversity areas and sustain local natural resource use, would relate to the update of the CZP and the overall integrated management of the property;
7. Continues to urge the State Party and all stakeholders involved in development projects to ensure that related impact assessments are implemented in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including to:
 - a) Ensure that any planned development is subject to a rigorous assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and to halt any ongoing development and not proceed with any new development that could negatively impact the OUV,
 - b) Evaluate the potential impacts of existing infrastructure developments that have not undergone Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), in the context of the new regulations,
 - c) Ensure that appropriate environmental standards to regulate activities in the property and its buffer zone are incorporated into the updated CZP and that their enforcement is ensured;
8. Notes the positive actions undertaken to address threats to the OUV of the property, however, reiterates its utmost concern about the potential impacts of previously identified threats, including uncontrolled development, unsustainable use of natural resources, climate change, plastic pollution, lack of sustainable funding and insufficient biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of IAS, and considers that the cumulative effect of these factors could represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property;
9. Also takes note of the UNESCO report on the implementation of the Emergency Assistance funded project to address the January 2023 oil spill from a tanker stranded at the Delisha Nature Sanctuary since November 2019, which states that the coast had been mostly cleaned by local authorities and community organizations, however expresses its concern that no assessment of the impact on the OUV has been undertaken to date, that traces of the impact on the coast are reported to still be seen and that the Gulf Dove tanker still contains some residual oil derivatives, and hence poses a continued potential risk to the OUV of the property, particularly its marine environment, and requests moreover the State Party to provide an update on this matter;
10. Further welcomes the activities carried out in the framework of the implementation of Emergency Assistance funding, including the preparation of a risk assessment and an action plan, and also notes that the implementation of the outlined action plan and related recommendations would require the mobilization of additional resources to support the local authorities;
11. Also notes with concern that on-going political instability and the economic crisis continue to impact the capacity for effective management of the property, and continues to call on the international community to support the State Party in its efforts to ensure the effective protection and management of the property;

12. *Reiterates its request for the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to be undertaken as soon as possible, to assess the current state of conservation of the property, in particular in relation to the above-mentioned threats, and to assess if the condition of the property presents ascertained or potential danger to the protection of the OUV of the property;*
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 the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

ASIA AND PACIFIC

62. Great Barrier Reef (Australia) (N 154)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add

63. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-2011

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (1997)

Total amount approved: USD 165,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Between 2007 and 2015, the property benefited from a programme funded by the India World Heritage UNF to enhance management effectiveness, build staff capacity and increase the involvement of local communities.

Previous monitoring missions

March 1992: IUCN mission; January 1997: UNESCO mission; February 2002: IUCN monitoring mission; March-April 2005, February 2008, January 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal activities (Poaching and illegal logging)
- Crop production (Subsistence agriculture inside the property)
- Financial resources (Slow release of funds by central Government)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Impact of tourism/visitor/recreation (Uncontrolled infrastructure development by local tourism groups)
- Land conversion
- Water infrastructure (Impacts of upstream dam development)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/>

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/338/documents/>, which provides the following updates:

- Species monitoring data are provided for rhino, tiger and pygmy hog. Rhino populations have remained fairly stable over the last three years due to strengthened protection measures, reporting 38 (2020-21), 40 (2021-22) and 47 (2022-2023) individuals. A 2023 report on the status of tigers in India recorded 57 individuals in the Manas Tiger Reserve, with an increasing trend in population and density since 2006. In 2023, the reintroduction of pygmy hog to the property (54 to

date) continues recovery efforts towards meeting the release target of 60 hogs by 2025. Several new anti-poaching camps have been constructed in the property;

- The carbon financing initiative is currently in planning and study. Consultations with village representatives around Manas Tiger Reserve are ongoing to activate Eco-development committees (EDC) to address alternative livelihoods and human-wildlife conflict mitigation (48 EDCs established). Ecotourism initiatives related to vehicle safari, sightseeing and interpretation facilities continue to be supported and an online tourist ticket booking system is initiated;
- No further agricultural encroachment has occurred in the property, the existing situation remains under control and consultations between local communities, park management and political authorities are ongoing;
- Habitat management continues to be implemented under the Manas Tiger Conservation Plan. The scientific basis for the Action Plan includes objectives to identify grassland sites for restoration and management, provide principles/guidelines for restoration and enhancement, monitor grassland health, and encourage community participation. An intervention strategy for the removal of the invasive *Chromolaena* through cutting and uprooting is being implemented in pilot sites. An upscaling of efforts and repeated interventions would be required to achieve effective long-term results. A girdling technique is being piloted to control growth of invasive woody species;
- Transboundary field-level cooperation with the State Party of Bhutan is ongoing across the Manas landscape. Potential transboundary extension of the property will require further consultation and a revised proposal is not currently under consideration;
- The Mangdechhu hydroelectric project is under the purview of bilateral agreement between the governments of India and Bhutan, and the States Parties need to consider appropriate discussions.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The ongoing efforts to monitor key species within the property and continued efforts to strengthen anti-poaching are welcomed. It is positive that rhino populations are reported to be stable, the tiger population has been increasing since 2006, and efforts to reintroduce pygmy hogs are facilitating recovery of this endangered species. It is recommended that systematic long-term monitoring is implemented for the property to continue tracking the status of key species and ensure their protection, combined with continued anti-poaching efforts.

The various activities to support carbon financing, ecotourism activities and establish EDCs to address alternative livelihoods and human-wildlife conflict mitigation in consultation with village representatives are noted and encouraged.

It is positive that no further agricultural encroachment has occurred in the property and existing encroachment is reported to be under control, with consultations among relevant stakeholders including local communities underway. However, noting that no details are provided, it is recommended the State Party provide further information on the management measures being implemented and their effectiveness to address the threat of encroachment, with due respect to the social, economic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and respecting all relevant international norms.

Whilst no clear update on the finalisation and implementation of an Action Plan for the sustainable management of the grassland-woodland ecosystem has been provided, as has been requested by the Committee in numerous decisions, implementation of habitat management is reported to continue under the Manas Tiger Conservation Plan. It is noted that the reported objectives identified for the Action Plan have the potential to support longer term management goals. The initiation of pilot activities to address invasive species is a positive step and should be continued, but the reported effectiveness of such measures would require longer-term implementation. As it remains unclear whether an Action Plan has been finalised, it is recommended the State Party provide further details of this Action Plan and its implementation, including control measures against the spread of invasive plant species, notably *Chromolaena odorata* and *Mikania micrantha*.

It is positive that transboundary cooperation with the State Party of Bhutan is continuing at the operational level. Noting that no further extension of the property is currently envisaged, it is

recommended that the State Party consider any potential future transboundary extension in discussion with the State Party of Bhutan.

It should be recalled that the Committee first raised concerns over the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project in 2012 when it requested the State Party of Bhutan to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that included an assessment of potential impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). IUCN had, at the time, also received third party information that another existing dam, Kurichu dam also upstream of the property, was having visible negative impacts on the OUV of the property, and hence the Committee requested the State Party of Bhutan to also consider cumulative impacts (Decisions **36 COM 7B.10**, **38 COM 7B.65** and **39 COM 7B.11**). It is therefore of serious concern that there continues to be an absence of information from the States Parties of India and Bhutan in response to the various Committee concerns and requests and that so far, neither the EIA nor the Environmental Management Plan has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. In order to address this long-standing concern, an online joint meeting between the two States Parties, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN would facilitate a discussion to clarify the current situation including the monitoring and mitigation measures that are being implemented.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.10**, **38 COM 7B.65**, **39 COM 7B.11**, **41 COM 8B.36**, **43 COM 7B.7**, **44 COM 7B.185**, and **45 COM 7B.83**, adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions, and at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes that monitoring of key species indicates that the rhinoceros population in the property has remained stable, the tiger population has been increasing since 2006, and reintroduction efforts for pygmy hog continue species recovery, notes with appreciation the continued efforts to address poaching, and requests the State Party to continue anti-poaching efforts, implement systematic long-term monitoring for key species in the property, and to report on the status of monitoring in its next report;*
4. *Takes note of ongoing activities to benefit local communities including through eco-tourism and addressing alternative livelihoods and human-wildlife conflict through Eco-Development Committees, and encourages the State Party to report on further progress regarding the carbon financing initiative and benefits to the property;*
5. *Also notes with appreciation that no further agricultural encroachment has occurred in the property and that existing encroachment is reported to be under control, and also requests the State Party to continue to address encroachment pressure with due respect to social, economic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and respecting all relevant international norms, and to provide further details of such management activities;*
6. *Also takes note that habitat management continues to be guided by the Manas Tiger Conservation Plan, that objectives for an Action Plan to address the sustainable management of grassland woodland ecosystem have been identified and pilot studies to address invasive plant species have been implemented, and reiterates its requests for the State Party to provide a clear update regarding the finalisation and implementation of this Action Plan on the ground, including control measures against the spread of invasive plant species, notably *Chromolaena odorata* and *Mikania micrantha*;*

7. *Further notes with appreciation the continued transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of India and Bhutan at the field level, and also encourages continued transboundary cooperation including regarding the possible consideration of a revised proposal for the extension of the property;*
8. *Reiterates its serious concern about the potential impacts of the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and that this project is reported to have been jointly inaugurated by the government of India and the Royal government of Bhutan in August 2019, and regrets that neither State Party has provided any information about the project, nor its Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan despite continued requests by the Committee since 2012;*
9. *Further requests that an online joint meeting between the States Parties of India and Bhutan, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN be convened no later than **1 December 2024** to clarify the current status of the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project, monitoring of any impacts on the OUV of the property, and any mitigation measures that are being implemented to assure the OUV of the property;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

64. Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (India) (N 1406rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting (Collection of medicinal plants)
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Management systems/ management plan (need to consolidate management of the Parwati Valley within the national park)
- Human resources (inadequate levels of staffing, equipment and training for patrolling in high-altitude terrain)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Others (Rights issues with respect to local communities and indigenous peoples in the Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries and in the Jiwanal Valley within the national park) (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2023, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/documents> and reports the following:

- The commitment to extend the property to include Khirganga and Pin Valley National Parks and Rupi Bhabha and Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuaries is reiterated. The decision to merge Khirganga National Park with the property has been taken, the settlement of rights of local people within the National Park is underway, and its merger with the property is based on final notification of National Park status;
- The State Party acknowledges the importance of meaningful involvement of local stakeholders and rights holders in the governance and management of the property, including its extension. Reported activities include planning, implementation, monitoring, protection and conservation activities for the property, such as co-management, improving local livelihoods, capacity building workshops, and education programmes;
- Regarding the request to conduct an assessment of impacts from existing resource use on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in particular grazing and collection of medicinal plants, it is stated that the impact in the property is minimal and that the buffer zone (Ecozone) fulfils the community requirements for fuelwood, fodder, timber, and other natural resources, where the majority of medicinal plants are collected (extraction not allowed in the property);
- With technical support from the Category 2 Centre Wildlife Institute of India (C2C-WII), monitoring protocols have been developed for long-term monitoring of the OUV, focused on key attributes (key species of fauna and flora);
- A study initiated in 2023 through a Memorandum of Agreement with C2C-WII to assess the current status of livestock grazing in and around the Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries, and plan to phase out grazing, will be completed by January 2024;
- Management deficiencies identified in the 2018-19 Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) have been addressed, including identification of the number of eco-tourism treks and regulation of visitors through permits, total livestock ban in the property (most grazing is in Ecozone), the aforementioned systematic annual wildlife monitoring protocol for the entire property (including Ecozone and Wildlife Sanctuaries) by management authorities, and training by C2C-WII;
- The State Party is in contact with C2C-WII on matters related to the property and to consider how best to proceed with identifying options for potential new nominations in the region and contribute to regional comparatives studies.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's continued commitment to extending the property in response to the Committee's request at the time of inscription (Decision **38 COM 8B.7**) to include the Khirganga and Pin Valley National Parks and Rupi Bhabha and Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuaries is welcome, and progress towards the merger of the Khirganga National Park is noted. Recalling that limited information on the progress of the extension, including the involvement of local stakeholders and rights-holders in the extension process, was provided for the 2021 Committee session, no further information is provided regarding the other three areas whilst awaiting the final notification of the National Park status for Khirganga (which is required to merge the park with the property). It is therefore recommended that in its next report, the State Party provide an update on progress in undertaking consultations with communities and stakeholders to progressively extend the property, which will increase its integrity. In this regard, the State Party's acknowledgement of the importance of meaningful engagement of local communities in the evaluation process is noted, as are the reported activities related to the management of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain available to provide technical guidance in relation to a Significant Boundary Modification of the property, if requested.

The development of monitoring protocols for the long-term monitoring of the OUV is welcomed and it is recommended that the Committee requests more details on the planned monitoring system in its next report, including on the first results of this work.

The State Party's statement that impact from existing resource use within the property is minimal, and that the Ecozone fulfils local community resource requirements is noted. The information that the

extraction of medicinal plants is not allowed in the property is noted, but it is recommended that the Committee requests further details on the consultation of local stakeholders and rights-holders in this process, recalling that IUCN noted during the Evaluation process that this requires sensitive resolution that is sympathetic to rights of communities, fostering alternative livelihoods and the conservation of the area. Regarding grazing, it is welcomed that a study is being undertaken to assess the current status of livestock grazing in and around the Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries, with a plan to phase out grazing. In line with the Committee's previous requests, it is recommended that the State Party submits to the World Heritage Centre, the report of the study as soon as it is available as well as further information on plans to phase out grazing, and any management decisions implemented as a result of the study. Regarding the total ban on grazing within the property, it is recommended that further details be provided on the process followed to implement the ban, including specifically regarding community involvement.

The various reported actions to address management deficiencies identified in the 2018-19 MEE, such as systematic annual wildlife monitoring for the entire property and addressing pressures from grazing and resource use, are positive. It is recommended that the State Party continue an adaptive management approach towards improving management effectiveness for the property.

Noting that the State Party is considering how best to identify potential new nominations in the region following the *Leveraging the World Heritage Convention for conservation in the Hindu Kush Himalaya* report published in 2021 in collaboration between States Parties, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), IUCN and other partners, it is recommended the State Party continues engaging with relevant States Parties in the context of the report findings.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.7**, **43 COM 7B.8** and **44 COM 7B.184**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's continued commitment to significantly enlarging the property including reported actions towards the inclusion of Khirganga National Park, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to entitle the necessary status and designations to the protected areas considered for inclusion in the World Heritage property in order to advance the process, and to seek guidance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in relation to the planned boundary modification in line with the Operational Guidelines, as needed;*
4. *Acknowledges the continued commitment to ensure the meaningful involvement of local stakeholders and rightsholders in the governance and management of the property, and requests the State Party to provide an update on its progress in undertaking consultations with communities and stakeholders to progressively extend the property;*
5. *Also welcomes the development of monitoring protocols for the long-term monitoring of the property and also requests the State Party to provide more details on the planned monitoring system in its next report, including on the first results of this work;*
6. *Takes note that impacts from existing resource use within the property are reported to be minimal and that the buffer zone (Ecozone) fulfils local community resource requirements, and also requests the State Party to provide further details on how the ban on the extraction of medicinal plants was agreed with local stakeholders and rightsholders since, as noted by IUCN at the time of inscription, access- and use- rights*

require sensitive resolution that is sympathetic to the rights of communities, fostering alternative livelihoods, and the conservation of the area;

7. Noting with appreciation that a study is being finalised to assess the current status of livestock grazing in and around the Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries, and plans to phase out grazing, further requests the State Party to provide the final report of this study to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available as well as further information on the findings of the study and resulting management measures taken, including plans to phase out grazing, in light of the decision not to re-categorise the wildlife sanctuaries as a national park, and to provide additional details on the process followed to implement the total grazing ban in the property including community involvement in line with a rights-based approach;
8. Also takes note that the State Party is engaged with the Category 2 Centre Wildlife Institute of India to consider identifying options for potential new nominations in the region, and also encourages the State Party to continue engagement with relevant States Parties in the context of the findings of the Hindu Kush Himalaya technical assessment that was developed through collaboration between the States Parties, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), IUCN and other partners on potential new opportunities;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

65. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1996-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 41,400

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

- Financial resources (Inadequate financing)
- Other climate change impacts (Nothofagus dieback)
- Illegal activities

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

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/documents>, providing the following information:

- The State Party expresses its commitment to follow Committee recommendations and support protection and management of the property through ongoing implementation of SMART ('Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool') patrols, completing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for road development plans, implementing mitigation measures for the Habema-Kenyam road, and monitoring dieback of *Nothofagus* species along the road. Due to security, technical and COVID-19 pandemic reasons, more time and assistance is required to implement all programmes in the property;
- A summary of the national park zonation (revised in 2013) and the 2021–2030 Long-Term Management Plan for the property is provided, and the original documents (in Indonesian) are appended and being translated into English;
- Regarding the Special Use Zone, to date no proposal for the construction or improvement of the pioneer airport within the property has been submitted. The State Party reiterates its commitment to follow advice in line with paragraphs 118bis and 172;
- Regarding the Trans-Papuan Highway, construction of the Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia section crossing the property has been halted since the end of 2021 due to safety factors and high construction costs. It remains an unpaved dirt road with a high slope that cannot be passed by vehicles. A translation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the 239 km Sugapa-Illaga-Mulia section (submitted in Indonesian in 2022) is appended, and is stated to include a clear assessment of the cumulative impacts of road developments on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Biodiversity monitoring activities include field surveys, cameras, and remote sensing in the property as well as species specific surveys including monitoring of *Nothofagus* species, for which international collaboration is welcomed;
- The State Party stands ready to discuss further the planning of the pending IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's commitment to continuing implementation of management measures is noted with appreciation, as are the submitted summaries of the revised national park zonation and 2021-2030 Management Plan for the property. Effective implementation of the Management Plan objectives, such as to increase institutional capacity, reduce threats, enhance species management, restore degraded ecosystems, and strengthen community capacity and involvement, will support long-term protection of the property.

Recalling that the Special Use Zone allows certain development within the property, the State Party's commitment to ensuring developments are compatible with the protection of OUV is appreciated. However, it remains of utmost concern that the Trans-Papuan Highway was included within the Special Use Zone and proceeded without adequate assessment of its impacts on the OUV of the property including its integrity. It is recalled that, in 2022, the State Party confirmed the Trans-Papuan Highway (strategic infrastructure project under the 2020-2024 Medium-Term National Development Plan) crosses the property at two sections: Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia (ca 40 km in the north) and Habema-Kenyam (ca 209 km in the east). Regarding Habema-Kenyam, the Committee has repeatedly raised concerns: e.g., the completion of an adequate EIA (**38 COM 7B.67**; **39 COM 7B.12**), impacts such as additional risk for fragile alpine environments (**41 COM 7B.29**; **43 COM 7B.9**; **44 COM 7B.94**), and completion of the road (**43 COM 7B.9**), and urged the implementation of mitigation measures and to report on these (**43 COM 7B.9**; **44 COM 7B.94**; **45 COM 7B.16**) and a clear Action Plan (**45 COM 7B.16**). Whilst the State Party's commitment to continue mitigation measures for the Habema-Kenyam road is noted, the

development and submission of a clear Action Plan, including a timeline for the rehabilitation of all areas damaged by the road construction, and a plan to monitor its impacts, remains to be provided.

Regarding the Sugapa-Ilaga-Mulia segment, the submitted EIA does not adequately consider the impact on the OUV. Whilst the final route avoids construction in the “core” zone (i.e., the property), it still crosses the property and therefore requires an assessment in relation to all attributes of the OUV. The EIA also identifies negative impacts including during construction (such as loss of vegetation and disturbance of wild animals along the road footprint) and operation (such as easier access for “forest encroachers” and illegal logging; increased traffic noise affecting wildlife). However, the EMP proposes very limited response measures and fails to consider the integrity of the property and to address the threats of illegal logging and encroachment. Noting that the construction of this section has been halted since 2021 due to safety and costs, construction should not be restarted before an assessment of impacts on the OUV and consideration of alternatives has been undertaken, and appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimize any negative impacts on the OUV are identified, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Although the State Party states its commitment to completing an SEA for road developments, the report also states that cumulative impacts are “inseparable” from the aforementioned EIA and no detailed information on the SEA was provided. It should be clarified that EIAs should indeed include assessments of interactions between the proposed project and others, but that SEAs are better suited to assessing cumulative impacts of multiple projects at a landscape-scale and at setting strategic mitigation measures that can apply consistently to all projects.

The biodiversity monitoring activities, particularly surveying of *Nothofagus* species, are noted positively. Long-term monitoring of the property should be ensured in line with the Management Plan, and the State Party is encouraged to engage in international collaboration on *Nothofagus* dieback, as needed, to ensure long-term management of these species.

Finally, it remains urgent that the Reactive Monitoring mission requested since 2017 is implemented as soon as possible to assess the various threats, particularly road development pressure and the effectiveness of the zoning to ensure the long-term protection of the OUV.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.67, 39 COM 7B.12, 41 COM 7B.29, 43 COM 7B.9, 44 COM 7B.94, 45 COM 7B.16**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Appreciates the provision of summaries of the revised management zonation and the 2021-2030 Management Plan for the property, and requests the State Party to submit the translated documents to the World Heritage Centre once available and to continue implementation of the Management Plan to address the threats to the property and ensure the long term protection of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
4. *Notes with appreciation the State Party’s commitment to ensure that any proposed development is compatible with the property’s World Heritage status in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and also requests the State Party to ensure that developments both within the property and its wider setting that may impact on its OUV are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and to submit the impact assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;*

5. *Reiterates its concern regarding the Trans-Papuan Highway development, which crosses the property at the Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia segment and the Habema-Kenyam segment, and will lead to the fragmentation of its habitats and is likely to negatively impact the OUV, and notes with concern that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Sugapa-Illaga-Mulia segment does not adequately assess impacts on the OUV of the property including its integrity, such as habitat fragmentation, vegetation clearing, or increased illegal logging;*
6. *Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as it is completed and in one of the working languages of the Convention, a clear assessment of the cumulative impacts of road developments on the OUV of the property, and reiterates its request to develop and submit a clear Action Plan, including a timeline for the rehabilitation of all areas inside the property that have been damaged by road construction;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to continue mitigation measures for the Habema-Kenyam segment, and to not proceed with further construction of the Enarotali-Illaga-Mulia segment, which has been halted since 2021, until its impact on the OUV has been fully assessed and appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimize any negative impacts on the OUV are identified in line with the aforementioned Guidance;*
8. *Taking note of the various biodiversity monitoring activities, requests furthermore the State Party to ensure long-term monitoring of the property and the OUV in line with the 2021-2030 Management Plan, especially regarding the regeneration of Nothofagus species, and encourages the State Party to proceed with international collaboration to further conclude the causes of the Nothofagus dieback and inform long-term conservation planning, as needed;*
9. *Reiterates its request for the IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to be implemented as soon as possible, to assess the state of road projects in the property, their impacts on the OUV, and the effectiveness of mitigation measures, as well as the effectiveness of the zoning of the property to ensure the long-term conservation of the OUV, and any other threats that may concern the OUV of the property, including illegal fishing, logging and poaching, as previously raised by the Committee;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

66. Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati) (N 1325)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2010

Criteria (vii)(ix)

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

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0 (from 2019-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 0

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

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

No state of conservation report was submitted by the State Party as was requested by Decision **45 COM 7B.17**. Still no response was received from the State Party to the World Heritage Centre's letter transmitted on 19 November 2021 requesting further information about the State Party's decision to lift the closure of the property for commercial fisheries and replace it with a Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Programme to sustainably develop the natural resources of the World Heritage property.

The letter requested the State Party to submit a report by 1 February 2022, including:

- Details about the decision made;
- An assessment of possible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Mapping of the changes in protection resulting from the decision, including which no-take zones will remain;
- The measures foreseen to enforce sustainable fishing practices outside the no-take zones under the envisaged MSP Programme.

Since no official reply from the State Party was received to the above-mentioned requests, there is no new information on the state of conservation of the property.

The World Heritage Centre received satellite data from third parties, which indicate that commercial fisheries have resumed within the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

In the absence of a report on the state of conservation of the property or a response to the aforementioned letter from the World Heritage Centre, transmitted on 19 November 2021, the current situation at the property cannot be adequately evaluated. In this regard, it is further regrettable that no action has been taken by the State Party to invite the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023), which could provide clarifications and guidance to the State Party to ensure the continued protection of the OUV whilst contributing to sustainable development and wellbeing of people.

At the time of inscription of the property in 2010, the State Party made commitments to expand the no-take zone to ensure the integrity of the property (Decision **34 COM 8B.2**). In 2015, the Committee highly commended the State Party for its landmark decision to fully close the entire area of the property from commercial fishing.

Nevertheless, in 2021, the State Party replaced the full no-take zone with a MSP Programme that intended to strike a balance between natural resource use to benefit the Kiribati people's livelihoods and the protection of the property's OUV, given the significant loss of revenue due to the closure of commercial fisheries in the property. Satellite data indicates that commercial fishing activity has resumed in the property since, at least, March 2023. It is of serious concern that the State Party has not provided any details regarding the reopening of the property to commercial fisheries, including details requested in the letter sent to the State Party on whether an assessment of possible impacts on the OUV of the property has been undertaken, and if so, details of the assessment; mapping of the changes in protection, including which no-take zones will remain; and the measures foreseen to enforce sustainable fishing practices outside the no-take zones under the envisaged MSP Programme.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterates its request to the State Party to invite the requested joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as a matter of priority, with a view to assessing the state of conservation of the property, provide recommendations for a MSP that ensures the protection of the property's OUV while securing sustainable livelihoods, and evaluate if the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **34 COM 8B.2**, **39 COM 7B.14** and **45COM 7B.17** adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee;*
4. *Reiterates its deep regret that the State Party decided to lift the 2015 landmark closure of the property for commercial fisheries, and that the reversed fishing license designed to compensate foregone fishing revenue appears not to have sufficiently benefited the livelihoods of the people of Kiribati to ensure its sustainability;*
5. *Recalling the importance to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property of maintaining sufficiently large no-take zones, reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any management decision related to the property, such as removing the protection status of the no-take zone and allowing commercial fishing operations, is science-based and ensures the protection of the OUV of the property;*
6. *Reiterates serious concern about the lack of details and clarity concerning the envisaged Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Programme and other measures being developed by the State Party to replace the no-take zone, requests again the State Party to provide the following as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN:*
 - a) *The assessments, which were undertaken to forecast any impact on the OUV of the property as a result of the reported decision,*
 - b) *Maps indicating changes in protection under the envisaged MSP, including areas which will remain as no-take zones,*

- c) *The measures it is taking and foreseen to monitor, survey and enforce sustainable best fishing practices within and outside of the no-take zones under the envisaged MSP;*
7. *Recalling its utmost concern that opening up the property to commercial fisheries has resulted in a significant weakening of the protection status of the property and reiterates that in case no urgent action is taken to ensure the effective protection of the OUV, the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review its state of conservation, assess the status and implications of any decision to change the no-take regime within the property, assess if the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger and make recommendations on options to ensure that the property's OUV is safeguarded, whilst ensuring the sustainable use of the property's marine resources in such a way that serves the needs of the people of Kiribati;*
9. *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, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

67. Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago (Viet Nam) (N 672ter)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add