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

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

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

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

Summary

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee. This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/46COM/documents>

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

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

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

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CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.3

ARAB STATES

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.3

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.3

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.3

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

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

- Iron-ore mining concession inside the property in Guinea
- Arrival of large numbers of refugees from Liberia to areas in and around the Reserve
- Insufficient institutional structure

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger
Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8086/>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7464>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Proposed for adoption in the 2024-2025 Costed Action Plan

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 22 (from 1981-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 540,649

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 25,282 from the Rapid Response Facility in January 2012 (see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/830/>), USD 31,214 from the Government of China Funds for Capacity Building and cooperation for World Heritage in Africa (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/280/?id=1058&&>)

Previous monitoring missions

October/November 1988: World Heritage Centre mission; 1993: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission; 1994: IUCN mission; 2000: World Heritage Centre mission; 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to Guinea; 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission to Côte d'Ivoire; 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission; January 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining
- Influx of refugees
- Agricultural encroachment
- Deforestation
- Poaching
- Weak management capacity
- Lack of resources
- Unsatisfactory transboundary cooperation

- Road construction

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2024, the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea submitted a joint state of conservation report of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents/>, reporting the following:

- The implementation of the corrective measures, in particular surveillance, ecological monitoring, support for neighbouring populations, strengthening of management capacities, ecological monitoring, fight against poaching, restoration of degraded areas, fight against bush fires, among others, as well as transboundary activities, is continuing in the two States Parties with the financial and technical support of several partners;
- The Development and Management Plan (*plan d'aménagement et de gestion* - PAG) for the Ivorian component of the property was validated in May 2022, while the PAG for the Guinean component is currently being finalised. The Master Plan for the two protected areas will follow;
- In Côte d'Ivoire, the Makoré Project will finance the management costs of five protected areas, including the Mount Nimba Reserve, for two years from 2024. It will also add 15 million euros to the endowment fund of the Foundation for the Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire (*Fondation pour les Parcs et Réserves de Côte d'Ivoire* - FPRCI), ensuring sustainable funding for the recurrent costs of the five protected areas from the third year;
- Infrastructure development in the peripheral zone of national parks and nature reserves in Côte d'Ivoire is regulated by strict legal provisions, in particular Law 2002-102 of 11 February 2002;
- In 2022, the Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa (*Programme d'Appui à la Préservation des Ecosystèmes Forestiers en Afrique de l'Ouest* - PAPFor) made it possible to monitor five community forests and to draw up six local development plans for the villages bordering the reserve. The formalisation and training of Village Conservation and Development Associations (*Associations Villageoises de Conservation et de Développement*) began in 2023 and will continue in 2024 with new micro-projects;
- The Côte d'Ivoire Parks and Reserves Office (*Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves* - OIPR), with the support of UNESCO, organised a workshop in Conakry in December 2023 to assess the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSCOR) and to draw up a plan for the removal of the Mount Nimba Reserve from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including recommendations and a costed action plan;
- Following the adoption of the DSOCR at the extended 45th session of the Committee, major efforts, although slowed by the late start of the PAPFor and the lack of recent specific studies on certain key species, have been deployed to achieve the indicators for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the strengthening of operational capacities, transboundary collaboration, surveillance patrols and support for neighbouring populations;
- Pending the full update of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of the mining sector in Guinea, draft Technical Criteria for assessing the acceptability of mining projects based on their potential individual and cumulative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are being prepared and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as possible;
- The control and monitoring of the implementation of the necessary measures to manage the impacts of the Lola-N'zo - Danané road project crossing the buffer zone of the Mounts Nimba Biosphere Reserve (*Réserve de Biosphère des Monts Nimba* - RBMN) is ensured by a Framework Collaboration Agreement between the Mounts Nimba-Simandou Environmental Management Centre (*Centre de Gestion de l'Environnement des Monts Nimba-Simandou* - CEGENS) and the Ministry of Transport and Road Infrastructure.

On 25 April 2024, the State Party of Guinea submitted to the World Heritage Centre a Brief Description of Phase 1 of the Nimba Mining Project of the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG), which was reviewed by IUCN, the comments of which were transmitted to the State Party by the World Heritage Centre. On 28 May 2024, SMFG, a company in which the State Party of Guinea is a shareholder,

announced that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Guinea had issued approvals for the terms of reference (ToR) and the scoping documents for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the development of Phase 1 of the Nimba Iron Ore Project.

In December 2023, the States Parties attended a workshop in Conakry, Guinea, to assess the implementation of the DSOCR and produce a costed action plan.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Despite irregular and insufficient funding and limited management capacity, the States Parties have made significant progress in implementing certain corrective measures, including surveillance, ecological monitoring, support for neighbouring populations and transboundary activities. These efforts are commendable and must be continued.

The obvious interest shown by several technical and financial partners through several projects and programmes, in particular UNESCO, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union (EU) and the World Bank, in supporting the States Parties in improving the state of conservation of the property and achieving the DSOCR indicators is to be welcomed and should be encouraged. Despite the delay in starting up, the continued effective implementation of all the components of the PAPFor to support the management functions of the property is appreciated. However, there has been a delay in the process of validating the PAG for the Guinean component of the property and the Master Plan including the two components of the property. It is recommended that the States Parties provide detailed information on the progress of these two processes. Although efforts are being made to monitor key species that represent major attributes of the OUV of the property, notably the chimpanzee, the Micropotamogale and the viviparous toad, the data remains very disparate from one component to another, with data almost non-existent in the Guinean component, the major part of the property. This is even more worrying for the Micropotamogale, for which there is currently no reliable data on the status of this species in the property. As a follow-up to the Conakry workshop in December 2023, it is recommended that a harmonised and operational ecological monitoring and anti-poaching system be developed and implemented as soon as possible to monitor the trend of key species of the OUV of the property and the integrity of their habitats.

The regulatory framework for infrastructure development in the peripheral zone of national parks and nature reserves in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly Law 2002-102 of 11 February 2002, which allows the management body to play an important role in decision-making, is noted. However, given the specificities related to the preservation of the OUV of the property in a World Heritage context, it is recommended that the Committee once again reiterate its request to the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to ensure that the forests in the vicinity of the property are officially designated as a buffer zone under the World Heritage Convention by following the procedure for minor boundary modifications with reference to Paragraphs 107 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

Concerning the mining projects, for which potential individual and cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, mainly in the Guinean component, remain of particular concern, it is noted, on the one hand, that the State Party of Guinea has not made significant progress on the new assessment framework for mining proposals in the Nimba region as an alternative to an SEA, as already reported in 2023, and, on the other hand, that it does not provide any additional information regarding the submission to the World Heritage Centre of the approved version of the draft ToR for the update of the ESIA of Zali Mining SA. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party of Guinea to submit the approved ToR of Zali Mining SA to the World Heritage Centre before any decision is taken on this project. With regard to the Nimba Iron Ore Mining Project by SMFG, the State Party does not provide any clarification regarding the completion of the ESIA for the entire project as requested by the Committee in its previous decisions, including Decision **45 COM 7A.4**.

In reviewing the Brief Description of Phase 1 of the project, IUCN notes that the project, although only partially described, suggests several potential threats to the surrounding ecosystems in general and the OUV of the property in particular, due to the proximity of the project area and its associated infrastructure to the property and to the route of the ore transport line. It should be reminded that the SMFG mining concession is an enclave completely surrounded by the property and includes critical areas for the viviparous toad, an endemic and flagship species of Mounts Nimba. It is noted with great concern that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Guinea has issued approvals for the ToR and the scoping documents of the ESIA for the development of Phase 1 of the Nimba Iron Ore Project. While recalling SMFG's commitment to carry out a full ESIA in accordance with international standards, to be independently assessed by IUCN, before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse, it is essential that no environmental compliance certificate be issued for the

SMFG's project until the impacts of the entire project have been subject to an ESIA carried out in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context.

In view of the potential impacts of the various mining projects on the OUV of the property, it should also be recalled that an SEA in this context would provide the framework to ensure a strategic level assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of the various mining projects on the OUV. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate, once again, its request to the State Party of Guinea not to grant any mining permits near the property without carrying out an SEA, conducted in accordance with international standards, and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre.

The involvement of CEGENS in controlling and monitoring the implementation of the necessary impact management measures for the Lola-N'zo - Danané road project, which crosses the buffer zone of the property, is positive. However, in view of the potential direct and indirect impacts of this project on the OUV of the property, particularly in the Guinean component, it is recommended that the States Parties provide detailed information on the progress of this project and its current route and ensure that these impacts are assessed in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context before any decision is taken.

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

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.6**, **44 COM 7A.40** and **45 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with appreciation the ongoing efforts of the States Parties under difficult circumstances to implement the corrective measures, including joint transboundary surveillance patrols, funding to support management operations, surveillance, ecological monitoring, support for neighbouring populations and transboundary activities, and the restoration of degraded areas, and requests the States Parties to continue the implementation of all corrective measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Appreciates the support by a growing number of national and international partners to the conservation of the property, including UNESCO, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union (EU) and the World Bank, and encourages States Parties to build long-term programmes with them, including actions contributing to the achievement of the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and to explore other funding opportunities for a sustainable maintenance of the ecological integrity of the property;*
5. *Notes with concern the limited progress made in the process of validating the Development and Management Plan (Plan d'aménagement et de gestion - PAG) for the Guinean part of the property as well as the Master Plan including the two components of the property, and also requests the States Parties to provide detailed information on the progress of these two processes and to ensure that these processes are finalised as soon as possible;*
6. *Also notes with concern that ecological monitoring data for key species representing the attributes of the OUV of the property, notably the chimpanzee, the Micropotamogale and the viviparous toad remain highly disparate from one component to another, expresses*

its concern about the lack of reliable data on the status of the Micropotamogale in the property and *further requests* the States Parties to develop and implement, as soon as possible, a harmonised and operational ecological monitoring and anti-poaching system to monitor the evolutionary trend of key species of the OUV of the property and the integrity of their habitats;

7. *Also takes note* of the regulatory framework for infrastructure development in the peripheral zone of national parks and nature reserves in Côte d'Ivoire, *recalls* the importance for the property of having a buffer zone as described in the Operational Guidelines and *reiterates once again its request* to the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to designate and formalize a buffer zone for the Ivorian component of the property in accordance with the procedures of the Operational Guidelines;
8. *While welcoming* the involvement of the Mounts Nimba-Simandou Environmental Management Centre (Centre de Gestion de l'Environnement des Monts Nimba-Simandou - CEGENS) in controlling and monitoring the implementation of the necessary impact management measures for the Lola-N'zo - Danané road project, which crosses the buffer zone of the property in the Guinean component, *also expresses its serious concern* about the potential direct and indirect impacts of this project on the OUV of the property and *urges* the States Parties to provide as soon as possible detailed information on the progress of this project and its current route, and to ensure that these impacts are assessed in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context before any decision is taken;
9. *Regrets* that the State Party of Guinea has not provided any additional information concerning the submission to the World Heritage Centre of the approved version of the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the update of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of Zali Mining SA and *reiterates its request* to the State Party to submit the approved ToR to the World Heritage Centre before any decision is taken;
10. *Recalling* the commitment of the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG) to carry out a full ESIA of the project in accordance with international standards, to be independently assessed by IUCN, before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse, *notes with the greatest concern* that the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Republic of Guinea has issued approvals for the ToR and the scoping documents of the ESIA for the development of Phase 1 of the Nimba Iron Ore Project, despite its potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as indicated by the assessment of the Brief Description of Phase 1 of the project, and *further requests* the State Party of Guinea to ensure that no environmental compliance certificate is issued for this mining project until its full potential impacts have been the subject of an ESIA;
11. *Also reiterates its request* to the State Party of Guinea to ensure that the ESIA for the Nimba Iron Ore Project and the Zali Mining Iron Project:
 - a) *are carried out in accordance with the highest international standards, in line with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, and in close consultation with all key stakeholders,*
 - b) *identify fully and quantify the potential effects of the project on the OUV of the property, at each phase of its cycle, including construction and operation, taking into account the synergistic and collateral impacts also linked to the on-site transformation of the ore and its transport, as well as the socio-economic changes to be expected,*
 - c) *are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to any decision to approve the project;*

12. Notes with concern the potential individual and cumulative impacts of mining projects on the OUV of the property, mainly in the Guinean component, and also reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea not to grant any new exploration or mining permits around the property without carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the impacts, including synergistic and cumulative impacts of these projects, and submitting it for prior consideration by the World Heritage Centre and for review by IUCN, and to provide further clarification regarding the planned World Bank strategic assessment of all mining projects in Guinea, in relation to the OUV of the property;
13. Requests moreover the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
14. **Decides to retain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

Note: the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo need to be read in conjunction with Item 46 of Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1984-1992, 1996-present

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

- Increased poaching
- Pressure linked to the civil war, thereby threatening the flagship species of the property

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

Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2010, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4082>

Revised in 2016, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6652>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 14 (from 1980-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 353,270

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 937,000 from the United Nations Foundation, the Governments of Italy, Belgium and Spain and the Rapid Response Facility; USD 200,000 from the Government of Norway in 2020-2021.

Previous monitoring missions

2006, 2010 and 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict and political instability
- Poaching by nationals and trans-border armed groups
- Inappropriate management capabilities to address the poaching crisis (resolved)
- Lack of management plan
- Probable extinction of the northern white rhinoceros subspecies within the property
- Artisanal mining

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/>

Current conservation issues

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

Analysis and conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party did not provide a report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) included on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the deadline. The absence of such a report makes it difficult for the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to monitor the state of conservation of these properties and provide in-depth analysis to the Committee. This is particularly the case for the Garamba National Park, which is increasingly threatened by the impacts of illegal exploitation of natural resources and armed conflicts in the region, as reported by the State Party in its latest report on the state of conservation of the property, while also noting that the State Party has previously reported positive progress in some aspects. Despite reminders from the World Heritage Centre, neither did the State Party invite the joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as requested by the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7A.5**.

UNESCO has nevertheless continued to maintain direct contact with the staff of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (management authority - ICCN). According to this information, the state of conservation of the property continues to improve, with a reduction in poaching pressure and a steady increase in the number of elephants, Kordofan giraffes and buffalo.

According to the property manager, in the absence of evidence of the presence of the northern white rhino for more than 15 years, the proposed introduction of a population of southern white rhino has been studied and the risks and benefits associated with this introduction were assessed in 2018 and 2021, in accordance with IUCN guidelines and in line with the advice of the African Rhino Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission (AfrRSG SSC). They initially began to be introduced in June 2023 with the arrival of 16 southern white rhinos from South Africa. Further translocations are planned over the next four years to establish a viable, breeding population of southern white rhino in the property. However, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that neither of the two reports on the risks and benefits associated with this introduction have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre as previously requested by the Committee. In addition, it is recommended that the State Party obtain formal advice from the IUCN AfrRSG on the translocation of southern white rhino to replace northern white rhino in the property which is located outside its historical geographical range. IUCN considers it essential that any translocation of species be considered with the formal advice of the IUCN AfrRSG and in accordance with the IUCN Guidelines for the *in situ* reintroduction and translocation of African and Asian rhinos.

At the joint ICCN, UNESCO and African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) workshop on the Desired state of conservation of the property with a view to its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), held in June 2022 in Kinshasa, and in which the IUCN took part, the possibility of a new nomination and the introduction of the southern white rhinoceros in place of the northern white rhinoceros were addressed. On this basis, a new nomination of the property is being prepared by the State Party, which added Garamba National Park to its Tentative List on 31 January 2024 with a view to a new nomination of the property under criteria (ix) and (x). The Statement of Outstanding Universal

Value for the property included on the World Heritage List in 1980 places great emphasis on the presence of the last population of the northern white rhinoceros, now considered probably extinct in the wild and in the property. A new listing proposal would review the justification for the original listing under criterion (x), taking into account both the likely extinction of a key species, and also the wider range of species of high conservation value that were not recognised at the time of listing.

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

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its extended forty-fifth session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit in time a state of conservation report on the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) included on the List of World Heritage in Danger, contrary to Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Notes with concern that the lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult to monitor the state of conservation of the DRC properties included on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the World Heritage Committee, given the significant conservation threats facing these properties;*
5. *Notes the ongoing efforts to prepare a new nomination for the property that would review the justification for the original listing under criterion (x), taking into account both the likely extinction of a key species characteristic of the property's OUV, and also the wider range of species of high conservation value that were not recognised at the time of listing;*
6. *Requests that the State Party provide information on the implementation of the following paragraphs mentioned in Decision **45 COM 7A.5**;*
7. *Notes the results of the ecological monitoring in 2021, which show a temporary stabilisation in the numbers of Kordofan giraffes and elephants and an increase in the hippopotamus and buffalo populations, but points out that the populations are still very small compared with the situation when the property was listed, is concerned about the high level of poaching for bushmeat for commercial and subsistence purposes in the hunting grounds, and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue efforts to control poaching in order to promote optimal conditions for fauna restoration, as well as to submit the strategy and action plan for the conservation of giraffes in the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
8. *Reiterating its utmost concern about the likely extinction of the northern white rhino subspecies within the property due to the lack of evidence of its presence since 2008, notes the launch of the implementation of a programme for the re-introduction of the white rhino into the property with the transfer of a first group of 16 specimens of the southern white rhino subspecies in June 2023, urges the State Party to:*
 - a) *Submit the reports of the 2018 and 2021 southern white rhino introduction risk assessments, as well as the report of the comprehensive study conducted in accordance with the IUCN Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review by IUCN,*

- b) *In collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, consult and take into consideration the advice of the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission (AfrRSG SSC) prior to the implementation of any translocation of southern white rhino to the property,*
 - c) *Implement rigorous long-term management measures for the risks that may be associated with the introduction of the southern white rhino subspecies into the property; in particular the safety of individuals, disease, competition with other herbivorous species and veterinary considerations to ensure the survival of translocated specimens in accordance with the advice of the IUCN AfrRSG SSC;*
9. *Notes with concern the constraints related to the relocation of existing artisanal mining sites in the hunting grounds and the limited progress in the definition of a Land Use Plan (LUP) and the creation of a functional 2km buffer zone around the property and reiterates its long-standing request to accelerate the finalisation of the LUP and the creation of the buffer zone in line with the Park's sustainable development strategy, the 2019 Ministerial Decree banning artisanal logging in hunting grounds, and the strategy for relocating refugee camps outside the park;*
 10. *Welcomes positively the continuation of cross-border cooperation with South Sudan, as recommended by the Committee, with a view to establishing a bilateral cooperation framework for the enhanced management of the Garamba-Lantoto Landscape and reiterates its call on both States Parties to expedite the formalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding in order to reduce illegal cross-border activities such as poaching and trade in wildlife products;*
 11. *Takes note of the information on the progress made by the State Party towards the achievement of the indicators as proposed by the 2016 mission and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise these indicators on the basis of the recent inventory data available, as well as the recommendations of the regional workshop on support to the process of removal of natural properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger in the French-speaking countries of Africa in Kinshasa in June 2022, and to submit the final version of the desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) to the World Heritage Centre for adoption by the World Heritage Committee;*
 12. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to review the implementation of corrective measures and progress made towards achieving the indicators as proposed by the 2016 mission, the current state of conservation of the property, the finalisation of the DSOCR as well as the status and proposed plans for the introduction of southern white rhinos to replace northern white rhinos that may be extinct in the wild as a key attribute of Outstanding Universal Value;*
 13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above points as set out in Decision **46 COM 7A.5**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;*
 14. ***Decides to maintain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (x)

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

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

- Adverse refugee impact
- Intermittent presence of armed militias and settlers at the property
- Increased poaching
- Deforestation

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

A draft was developed during the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents>), but the biological indicators still need to be quantified based on the results of a census of large mammals available at late 2018.

Corrective measures identified

Adopted in 2017, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6954>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted in 2017, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6954>

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1980-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 170,025

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,003,900 from the United Nations Foundation (UNF), and the Governments of Italy and Belgium, and by the Rapid Response Facility (RRF), USD 300,000 from the Government of Norway (2021-2022)

Previous monitoring missions

1996-2006: several World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of the DRC Programme;
December 2009 and April/May 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Presence of armed groups, lack of security and political instability rendering a large part of the property inaccessible to the guards
- Attribution of mining permits inside the property (issue resolved)
- Poaching by armed military groups
- Bush meat hunting
- Villages in the ecological corridor between the highland and lowland sectors of the park
- Illegal mining and deforestation

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/137/>

Current conservation issues

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

Analysis and conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party did not provide a report on the state of conservation of the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) included on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the deadline. The absence of such a report makes it difficult for the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to

monitor the state of conservation of these properties and transmit in-depth analysis to the Committee. This is particularly the case for the Kahuzi-Biega National Park, which is increasingly threatened by the impacts of illegal exploitation of natural resources and armed conflicts in the region, as reported by the State Party in its latest report on the state of conservation of the property, while also noting that the State Party has previously reported positive progress in some aspects.

The World Heritage Centre has been informed by third parties of allegations of human rights violations against indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) in the context of law enforcement operations. In this regard, on 22 January 2024, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) stated that it had sent an urgent letter of appeal to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo calling for an end to the violence and expulsion of members of the Batwa indigenous population in the property.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide information on the implementation of the recommendations made in Decision **45 COM 7A.6**.

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

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.6** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit a state of conservation report on the four properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) included on the List of World Heritage in Danger, contrary to Paragraph 169 of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Notes with concern that the lack of reporting by the State Party makes it difficult to monitor the state of conservation of the DRC properties included on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the World Heritage Committee, given the significant conservation threats facing these properties;*
5. *Requests that the State Party provide information on the implementation of the recommendations made in Decision **45 COM 7A.6** and recalled below;*
6. *Reiterates its concern about allegations of serious human rights violations against indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC) in the context of law enforcement operations, and also takes note of the conclusions of the "Commission of Inquiry into Alleged Violations Committed by ICCN Personnel in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park" established by the State Party to investigate the issues raised and documented in the previous report submitted by the State Party in 2022;*
7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement all the recommendations of the report of the Commission of Inquiry, as well as any other measures necessary to ensure that all conservation activities fully respect human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including, but not limited to, establishing a national code of conduct for ecoguards and an effective and transparent complaints mechanism for human rights violations, and training all conservation personnel tasked with the application of human rights, as well as ensuring an equitably governed consultative process with the participation and decision-making of all rights holders and stakeholders, in accordance with relevant international standards and the 2015 Policy on the Integration of a Sustainable Development dimension into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention;*

8. Urges the State Party to accelerate the further implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Bukavu Dialogue for relations with Batwa indigenous communities, in close consultation with all parties concerned;
9. Requests that the State Party promptly implement all corrective measures updated by the 2017 mission;
10. Recalling its concern about the increasing pressure of encroachment on the property, also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit further details on the rehabilitation plan for the ecological corridor and to ensure that that its implementation takes into account all the impacts of the encroachment on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the actions necessary to ensure the recovery and regeneration of the natural vegetation, in consultation with all the parties concerned;
11. Recalling the importance of wild flora and fauna to the OUV of the property, remains concerned about the low populations of key wildlife species, in particular the Grauer's gorilla population, compared to the date of listing and reiterates its requests to the State Party to submit the results of the 2018 wild flora and fauna inventory, or a more recent inventory, to the World Heritage Centre, and to finalise, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, indicators for the Desired State of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), defined on the basis of the draft proposed by the 2017 mission and the wild flora and fauna data;
12. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points in the Decision **46 COM 7A.6**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session;
13. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to this property;
14. Also decides to keep the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (viii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2018-present

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

2018: Potential irreversible loss of the property's OUV caused by impacts of various development projects on the Omo River (Kuraz irrigation project, Gibe III dam) on water and nutrient flow into Lake Turkana; 2021: Poaching and encroachment leading to steep decline and local extinctions of wildlife populations.

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

Drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2000-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 35,300

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

USD 250,000 from the Norwegian government (2021-present)

Previous monitoring missions

March 2012 and April 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; March

2020: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of the Gibe III dam
- Other planned hydro-electric developments and associated large-scale irrigation projects in the Omo region
- Oil exploration
- Wildlife population decline and pressure from poaching, livestock grazing and illegal fishing
- Impacts of the larger development vision for Northern Kenya
- Management capacity of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and National Museums of Kenya (NMK)
- Conflict between local communities and park management
- Redesigning the boundaries of the property

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 March 2024 the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/801/documents/> which reports the following:

- The State Party continues to implement the Lake Turkana National Parks Management Plan and annually allocates resources for operations and maintenance both on land (Sibilo National Park) and Lake Turkana Island parks;
- Efforts to engage the State Party of Ethiopia in relation to the Committee's request for the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to provide a consolidated response to its past decisions, and for the State Party of Ethiopia to provide an urgent update on all planned and current developments in the Turkana Basin that could negatively affect the property and submit Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for the Kuraz Sugar Development Project, the Gibe IV (Koyscha) dam, and Gibe V dam, continue to be challenging. The State Party of Kenya proposes that the World Heritage Centre initiate and moderate a tripartite meeting between the two States Parties to address this challenge;
- Regarding finalization of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), it is recalled that a draft was prepared through the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, elaborated further at a meeting held in December 2022 and, following virtual meetings with the World Heritage Centre, the draft was submitted in January 2024 for review. The draft was to be finalised during the April 2024 UNESCO DSOCR workshop with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
- A comprehensive biodiversity survey is proposed in the draft DSOCR. At present, there is no reliable scientific data to conclude regarding the potential loss of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- The requested revision of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the 'Lamu Port-Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Program' was to be replaced with the requested SEA for the Lake Turkana Basin developed jointly by the States Parties of Kenya and

Ethiopia. The LAPSSET corridor had been planned to pass south of the lake and west of Turkana thereby avoiding the property.

On 16-19 April 2024, the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia participated in the DSOCR workshop, organised by UNESCO with participation of IUCN and ICCROM. The financial support provided by the Government of Norway for the conservation of World Heritage properties in Africa is appreciated, in particular the development of DSOCRs for properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

On 29 April 2024, the State Party submitted a revised DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre for further review and advice.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued implementation of the Management Plan for the property and allocation of resources is noted. It should be recalled however, that the Committee also requested the State Party to implement the 2020 mission recommendation, to develop an operational plan and a monitoring and evaluation system for the Management Plan to bring the three components of the property under one integrated management unit focused on the preservation of the OUV, and which includes a co-management system agreed with local communities on resource use. Progress achieved on these points, as well as effort to implement the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, including to address the previously reported pressures from poaching, livestock encroachment and illegal fishing, still require clarification.

No updates have been provided by the State Party of Ethiopia on planned and current development projects in the Turkana Basin, including the EIA for the Kuraz Sugar Development Project and the series of dams on the Omo River noted by the 2020 mission (including the Gibe IV (Koysha) and Gibe V dams). In this regard, it remains concerning that no progress has been made on the requested SEA to assess cumulative impacts of the multiple developments in the Omo-Turkana Basin on the property's OUV, which remains pending since 2014. Recalling again that Lake Turkana is strongly dependent on the Omo River for water inflow, these projects and lack of information on potential downstream impacts on the property remain of concern and may limit future options for mitigating negative impacts on the OUV.

It is commendable that during the April 2024 DSOCR workshop, the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia agreed to reconvene a meeting of the Joint Technical Experts Committee (JTEC), established under the Ethiopia-Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission, which is planned for November 2024 to discuss the development of the above-mentioned SEA. This meeting is an opportunity to address the Committee's outstanding requests to develop the SEA, including a realistic plan and timeframe for the SEA, and to conclude consultations on the draft DSOCR.

It is noted that the latest draft DSOCR has been improved, however further revision is required to align it with the draft proposed in the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, and to ensure that the DSOCR indicators reflect a clear and achievable approach to removing the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. It is also recommended that the meeting of the JTEC highlighted above is used to update the DSOCR for finalisation and adoption. In the meantime, the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN should agree on the terms of a 'provisional DSOCR' by which priority actions could already be agreed and taken to address poaching and encroachment that have led to steep decline and local extinctions of wildlife populations, which were added in 2021 among the threats for the continued inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Noting the State Party's emphasis that the location of the LAPSSET Corridor was planned to pass south of the lake to avoid the property, it is important to recall that individual projects are still proposed in the wider setting of the property (e.g., a resort on Lake Turkana; see <https://lapsset.go.ke/>) which require effective management in accordance with Paragraph 112 of the Operational Guidelines. As repeatedly requested by the Committee, including in its Decision **45 COM 7B.126** concerning the Lamu Old Town World Heritage property, the potential cumulative impacts of the multiple projects on the OUV of the Lamu Old Town and Lake Turkana National Parks World Heritage properties should be clearly assessed through the SEA of the LAPSSET project, and the potential impact of any individual project that may impact the OUV should be assessed through individual ESIA's carried out in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

It is regrettable that the State Party did not provide the requested details regarding progress in implementation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Omo River-Lake Turkana Basin, and it is recommended that this request be reiterated.

Recalling that in 2023 the State Party reported on the rising water level of Lake Turkana, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide an update on this issue and monitor potential impact of the water level variation on the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.47** and **45 COM 7A.10** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the State Party's continued implementation of the Lake Turkana National Parks Management Plan, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop an operational plan and a monitoring and evaluation system for the Management Plan to bring the three components of the property under one integrated management unit focused on the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and which includes a co-management system agreed with local communities on resource use, in line with the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations;
4. Notes with appreciation the efforts to revise and submit an updated draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), based on feedback by IUCN and through the April 2024 UNESCO DSOCR workshop financially supported by the Government of Norway, and encourages the State Party to finalise the DSOCR in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for examination by the Committee at its 47th session;
5. Reiterates again its regret over the continued lack of a consolidated response by the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia to the Committee's past decisions and urges again the State Party of Ethiopia to provide an urgent update on all planned and current development projects in the Omo-Turkana Basin, which could negatively affect the property, and to submit the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Kuraz Sugar Development Project, the Gibe IV (Koysha) dam under construction and the planned Gibe V dam for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
6. Notes with appreciation that the States Parties of Kenya and Ethiopia have committed to reconvene the Joint Technical Experts Committee (JTEC), established under the Ethiopia-Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission, to discuss the development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the cumulative impacts from developments in the Omo-Turkana Basin, which is crucial to plan for the protection of the property's OUV and has been pending since 2014, and also requests the States Parties to develop a realistic plan and timeframe for the SEA;
7. Urges the State Party to expedite the revision of the SEA of the 'Lamu Port-Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor Program', which should include an assessment of all potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the development projects on the OUV of World Heritage properties, including Lake Turkana National Parks, and to ensure that the potential impact of any individual project that may impact the OUV are assessed through individual ESAs carried out in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

8. *Also recalling previous reports of flooding of Lake Turkana, further requests the State Party to provide an update on the status of the water level of Lake Turkana and to monitor the potential impact of the water level variation on the OUV of the property;*
9. *Also reiterates its request for the State Party of Kenya to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, details regarding the progress in implementation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Omo River-Lake Turkana Basin, of the various state of conservation matters pertaining to the property, highlighting the challenges facing the implementation of the developed strategy;*
10. *Further reiterates its request for the State Party of Kenya to provide an update on the progress in implementing all of the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular to:*
 - a) *Develop a site-specific Biodiversity Action Plan to restore wildlife populations in the property back to levels present at the time of inscription of the property,*
 - b) *Conduct a comprehensive scientific study to assess the current impacts of grazing and develop a viable grazing pressure reduction strategy, based on grazing capacities, to address encroachment,*
 - c) *Establish a co-management system with local communities that stipulates clear regulations regarding use of resources in the property and potentially provides payment for environmental services to local communities,*
 - d) *Establish a long-term monitoring system for the collection and analysis of hydrological and limnological data in Lake Turkana to assess the ecological changes to the lake system and the related impact on the OUV of the property,*
 - e) *Develop a national overarching Master Plan for development in and adjacent to Lake Turkana to avoid any negative impacts on the lake system and OUV of the property,*
 - f) *Create a buffer zone to the property, possibly covering the whole lake and other critical terrestrial areas with complementary legal and/or customary restrictions on its use and development;*
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;*
12. ***Decides to retain Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

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

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.3

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2014-present

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

2014: Poaching and the ensuing dramatic declines in elephant populations, and the effects thereof on the ecosystem. In 2018 the impacts of the proposed Stiegler's Gorge hydropower dam (more recently referred to as the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP)) were added to the justification for Danger Listing.

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

A draft DSOCR was developed but not finalized before the justification for Danger listing was amended to include the impacts of the JNHPP.

Corrective measures identified

A draft action plan with corrective measures was developed but not submitted by the State Party before the justification for Danger listing was amended to include the impacts of the JNHPP.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1984-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 67,980

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 2007, November 2008 and December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions. February 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Significant decline of wildlife populations due to poaching
- Insufficient funding and interruption of the retention scheme
- Management challenges of trophy hunting
- Changes in legislation in 2009 permitting hydrocarbon and uranium prospecting and extraction inside game reserves
- Excision of land from the property to accommodate a uranium mine
- Operationalizing the uranium mining project and consideration of in situ leaching by the developer
- Lack of disaster preparedness and water monitoring related to the uranium mine
- Inadequate tourism management and development
- Decision to construct and subsequent construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) and its associated infrastructure without adequate impact assessment
- Logging within the reservoir area
- Proposed Kidunda Dam development without adequate impact assessment
- Other potential infrastructure developments
- Need for buffer zone
- Need for increased involvement of local communities
- Alien invasive species

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/>

Current conservation issues

On 23 February 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/199/documents/>, which reports the following:

- The State Party continues implementation of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) and reiterates its position that the project will have minor impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, considering the size of the property, that its impact was assessed in an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and that mitigation measures based on the ESIA continue to be implemented. Ten additional scientific studies have been commissioned to generate supplementary information to inform mitigation measures. The reports will be shared once completed;
- There remains renewed interest in the Kidunda Dam project and the requested 2021 ESIA (updated from the 2017 ESIA). The ESIA was reported as attached (but submitted separately on 9 June 2024);
- The 2012 Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Mkuju Uranium Project has been updated and the report attached (dated 2016). The State Party will inform the World Heritage Committee when the project commences;
- The previously planned major development projects (Kito-1 oil and gas exploration project, and oil exploration blocks outside the reserve) remain dormant. Whilst noting that no decision has been taken, the State Party commits to undertaking new ESIA's for any such renewed projects given the extended timeframe;
- On 25 February 2024, the State Party invited the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission for May 2024 to assess the state of conservation of the property and re-establish a dialogue on the identified challenges.

In April 2024, press and media articles reported that the discharge of water from the JNHPP had led to flooding of essential infrastructure and crops, displacement of communities and loss of life downstream of the dam.

On 16-19 April 2024, thanks to the financial support of the Government of Norway, UNESCO, in collaboration with IUCN and ICCROM, organized a workshop to support properties from the East Africa region inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, which included a discussion on this property and was attended by the State Party. On 3 May 2024, the State Party submitted a draft Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) to the World Heritage Centre for review.

While the State Party formally invited the Reactive Monitoring mission, at the time of preparing this report, it had not yet confirmed the proposed dates for the mission.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Regarding the ongoing implementation of the JNHPP dam in the property, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall the history of significant concerns raised in World Heritage Committee documents and decisions for more than a decade over the potential impacts of this project on the OUV of the property, from inadequate impact assessments to its continued construction against the request of the Committee, and the resulting loss of integrity and irreversible damage to the values which underpin OUV.

The continuation of the JNHPP, which is now nearing completion, in this context is deeply concerning. It needs to be emphasized again that the World Heritage Centre and IUCN are of the view that the degree of impact on the OUV of the property is far greater than the physical footprint of the JNHPP reservoir, as it is leading to significant changes to the hydrology of the Rufiji river and major impacts on the ecosystems upstream and downstream of the dam with loss of forest cover, ecological connectivity and changes to the floodplain system.

Furthermore, the updated Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA) submitted in June 2023 cannot fully address the previously highlighted shortcomings in line with best practice SEA standards, assessments remain superficial, and it provides a limited reflection of the impacts on the OUV moving forward into the operational phase. The value of an updated SEA at this time remains severely limited considering construction is near completion and the filling of the dam is ongoing.

The Reactive Monitoring mission will provide an opportunity to further assess the impacts of the dam on the OUV of the property based on all available documentation. It is also regrettable that no further details are provided on the 10 additional scientific studies which were already reported in the previous State Party report.

The 2022 elephant census data which was reported in the previous State Party's state of conservation report was regrettably not subsequently shared with the World Heritage Centre, which would have allowed an updated understanding of the status of the elephant population.

Noting the renewed interest in the Kidunda dam project, it is concerning that the revised ESIA was only submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 9 June 2024 despite repeated reminders. The late submission has not allowed for the review of the ESIA. Recalling concerns regarding the potential impact of the dam on the OUV given it may inundate part of the property, it is recommended to reiterate the Committee's previous request in this regard.

While it is noted that the State Party continues to express its commitment to undertake new ESIA's should any previously planned major projects (e.g. Kito-1 oil and gas exploration; oil exploration blocks) be considered, it is of significant concern that, for the Mkuju Uranium Project, which was reported to the Committee to have been suspended in 2018, the State Party has submitted a revised EMP (dated 2016, updated from 2012) and states that it will inform the World Heritage Committee when the project commences, in spite of previous commitments that a new ESIA would be required should the project be revived. A new ESIA and EMP is essential to inform decision-making considering the time elapsed and reflecting on the changes to the state of conservation of the property since 2016 but also due to the update that the mode of extraction may change from surface mining to chemical leaching, a method which presents significant risk for groundwater contamination. A new ESIA is required in line with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines and in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

It is noted that the invited joint Reactive Monitoring mission will be critical for assessing the status of the OUV of the property, including in relation to the above noted issues, and the options available to the State Party and the Committee, including options to conserve the wider Selous-Niassa ecosystem. The recently updated draft DSOCR will additionally be reviewed by the mission.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.16**, **44 COM 7A.51** and **45 COM 7A.14**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Noting that construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) within the property is nearing completion, also recalls its utmost concerns regarding this project, including its clear position that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status, the commitment made by the State Party to not undertake any development activities in the property without the Committee's approval, and the irreversible impact of continued implementation of the JNHPP on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
4. *Expresses its concern regarding the reported flooding and its impacts on communities, including loss of life, downstream of the JNHPP following the discharge of water from the dam, and requests the State Party to urgently provide more information on this issue;*
5. *Reiterates again its concerns regarding the potential impacts of the proposed Kidunda dam project, which may inundate part of the property, regrets that the revised 2021 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was submitted too late to allow for*

its review in time for the 46th session of the Committee and reiterates its request for the State Party not to proceed with any decision that would be difficult to reverse before the revised ESIA has been reviewed by IUCN;

6. Further recalling the State Party's commitment to ensuring that previously planned major developments, including the suspended Mkuju uranium mine, would be subject to a new ESIA process should they be considered in future, also requests the State Party to ensure that a new ESIA is undertaken for the proposed Mkuju uranium mine to assess its potential impacts on the OUV of the property 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 including to approve the project;
7. Also reiterates its request for the State Party to ensure that any development that may impact on the OUV of the property is assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
8. Takes note that the State Party has invited the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission and urges the State Party to organize this mission as soon as possible, to assess amongst other matters, the status of the elephant population, the impacts of the JNHPP implemented within the property, as well as of various other construction projects on the OUV of the property, as it was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and assess future scenarios for the property, including options to conserve the wider Selous-Niassa ecosystem;
9. Further 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;
10. **Decides to retain Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ASIA-PACIFIC

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

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

- Road construction
- Mining
- Illegal logging
- Encroachment

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

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Revised, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7213>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted; see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/5970>

Revised, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7213>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress;

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2005-2012)

Total amount approved: USD 96,600

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,800,000 for the 3-year UNF/UNFIP Project (2005-2007) – Partnership for the Conservation of Sumatra Natural Heritage; USD 35,000 Rapid Response Facility Grant (2007); USD 49,620 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to integrate management and review boundaries for the long-term protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (2020-2022)

Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2006: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan
- Ground transport infrastructure (Road construction)
- Land conversion (Agricultural encroachment)
- Illegal activities (Illegal logging; Poaching)
- Governance (Institutional and governance weaknesses)
- Renewable energy facilities (Geothermal development license adjacent to the property)
- Invasive species

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1167/>

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/1167/documents/>, and reports the following:

- The State Party remains committed to the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. A progress report on the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is annexed;
- It is reiterated that forest cover has 'relatively stabilized' from 2011 to 2022 following efforts to address deforestation and forest loss, including the moratorium on new concessions in primary forests and peatlands since 2011, as well as resolving land-use conflicts, law enforcement, and ecosystem restoration. More than 12,000 hectares have been rehabilitated and restored in the last decade, with commitment to continue. Efforts to address encroachment are intensified. Local communities previously considered to be involved in encroachment are actively involved in participatory restoration activities. An ecosystem recovery plan (2019-2023) exists for each national park (NP);
- The key species (Sumatran rhino, tiger, elephant, orangutan) are regularly monitored. The overall tiger population is reported as relatively stable (data ranging 2010-2022). In Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP), camera trap surveys are underway in the eastern part (results expected by end of 2024) and being initiated in 2024 in the western part (results by 2025). Elephant data for 2019-20 are reiterated. For orangutan, 2021-2023 monitoring in GLNP estimated ~142 individuals. For rhino, camera trap monitoring was undertaken in GLNP (62 traps in 2023) and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) (250 traps 2018-2019) supported by on-foot surveys. Further efforts include semi-in situ conservation such as the establishment of the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) in Lampung, as well as establishing a second SRS in Aceh and Kelian East Kalimantan;
- The State Party is committed to not issuing permits for new road proposals within national parks and is mitigating effects of existing roads. No impact assessment for the Muara Situlen-Gelombang road segment in GNLP has been initiated since no proposal (for construction or improvement) has been submitted. If such a project would be tabled it would be opposed by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. A number of dam-related project development proposals have been rejected;
- Mitigation measures for the Karo-Langkat road include canopy bridges for primates, fencing, guard posts, patrolling, regulating vehicle intensity, drainage channels and signage. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for the Sanggi-Bengkunat road upgrade (11.5km in BBSNP; dated 2023) and Bukit Tapan-Sungai Penuh Road widening (23km in Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP); dated 2022) projects are appended. In line with Presidential Decree, the Trans-Sumatran Highway does not cross the GLNP, passing closest to the boundary at two points ($\pm 7\text{km}$; $\pm 6\text{-}8\text{km}$);
- There continue to be no mining concessions or exploration in the property, with closure and rehabilitation of small-scale illegal sites. Boundary monitoring and reconstruction continues. Law enforcement continues to be strengthened through Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and increased patrol efforts, reporting decreasing threats and snares, and human wildlife conflict continues to be addressed. The spatial plan to manage the wider Leuser Ecosystem (KEL) is being developed.
- A summary of the 2020-2030 KSNP Management Plan is provided in English and the full documentation will be submitted once translated into English. The objectives of the 2023 Ministerial Decree on 'Coordination Team of Management and Preparing of Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (TRHS) and Komodo National Park Natural World Heritage' (annexed to the State Party report in Indonesian) include accelerating efforts to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, optimizing and synergizing its management, as well as preparing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property and Komodo National Park;
- On 21 November 2023, the State Party submitted a proposal for a significant boundary modification and submission to add 'Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra – Significant Boundary Modification' to its Tentative List (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6694/>).

In November 2023, IUCN reviewed the UNESCO Jakarta Office report 'Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra World Heritage Boundary Review to better reflect Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for long-term protection', which was developed to inform the significant boundary modification process with support of the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust. The IUCN review was shared with the State Party through the UNESCO Jakarta Office.

On 1 March 2024, the State Party, World Heritage Centre and IUCN held a meeting under the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to discuss the state of conservation of the property, planned boundary modification and DSOCR.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is positive that the State Party is continuing efforts to implement the corrective measures, including the continued moratorium on new forest concessions, implementation of restoration efforts and ecosystem recovery plans, and the engagement of communities (previously considered to be involved in encroachment) in restoration efforts. Whilst the report reiterates that forest cover has relatively stabilized from 2011 to 2022, no data are provided on forest loss, which has been observed continuously during the same period. It is therefore also unclear to what extent the DSOCR indicators on forest cover have been achieved, which require that there is no further loss of primary forest cover and no net loss of secondary forest cover in the property against the 2018 baseline.

It is also positive that monitoring of key species continues and *in-situ* rhino conservation is being strengthened. Further information is however required to confirm the extent to which the DSOCR species indicator has been achieved (i.e. for populations to show a sustained positive trend in range occupancy). Specifically, Sumatran tiger is reported as stable, however the latest data presented for KSNP and GLNP are from 2020, and for BBSNP from 2022. Elephant data are from 2019-20, and whilst rhino surveys have continued in 2023, no specific population data are reported. Although 2023 orangutan surveys report population status, further information regarding changes over time would be required to determine whether there is a positive trend in the population. This emphasises the ongoing need for a systematic survey using standard replicable methods to enable a property-wide analysis of population status and monitor trends, that was highlighted by the 2018 mission. Overall, it is also recommended the State Party specifically report against all DSOCR indicators to enable a clear assessment of the extent to which these have been achieved and what remains to be implemented.

The commitment to not allow new road developments within the property, to ensure EIAs for any proposed changes to existing roads, and to mitigate effects of existing roads is appreciated, noting also that there is no intention to upgrade the Muara Situlen-Gelombang segment. Implementation of mitigation measures for the Karo-Langkat road, including to address habitat fragmentation, should be continued. Whilst it is positive that the Trans-Sumatran Highway does not cross the GLNP, given its proximity to the boundary and the importance of the wider KEL to protect the integrity of GLNP, it is important to ensure that the potential impact on the OUV is adequately assessed to avoid any potential negative impacts.

The submission of EIAs for the two road projects is appreciated though the current status of the projects is not reported. The EIA for the Bukit Tapan-Sungai Penuh road widening project in KSNP identifies impacts on the OUV of the property and proposes mitigation measures, but the scientific underpinning of these, and therefore whether they would adequately mitigate impacts of the project on the OUV, such as fragmentation and to ensure connectivity, remain unclear. Regarding the EIA for the Sanggi-Bengkunat road upgrade in BBSNP, it is concerning that the existing road is reported to already be impacting habitat and wildlife, including Sumatran rhino, and that impacts on key species is identified as moderate or severe. The statement that the rate of forest clearance would be lower compared to the "widespread deforestation observed across the entire [BBSNP]" is also concerning. The likely negative impacts on OUV therefore appears difficult to mitigate. An IUCN review of the EIAs will be submitted to the State Party.

The Ministerial Decree's focus on coordinating management and accelerating conservation efforts for the property should further strengthen management, and it is recommended the SEA be prioritised to enable authorities to proactively inform planning decisions for the property through a strategic assessment of developments (including road upgrades and widening) and their potential impacts (specifically cumulative impacts) on the OUV. All impact assessment processes should follow the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

Whilst it is positive that there continues to be no mining within the property and several dam-related proposals have been rejected, a response is yet to be provided to the request for clarification on four

hydropower dams (Soraya Dam, Jambo Aye Dam, Kluet Dam and Samarkilang Dam), mining projects in the KEL in the vicinity of GLNP and the spatial plan to manage the KEL.

The State Party's commitment to preparing a significant boundary modification proposal is appreciated and further encouraged. Noting that the area included in the Tentative List submission appears to be informed by the 2023 UNESCO Jakarta report, it is important to recall IUCN's review, which provided guidance on further work that would be required regarding the identification and assessment of the OUV, and to fully address the recommendations of previous Committee Decisions and Reactive Monitoring missions to finalise the process. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain available should further advice be required on this matter.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7A. 56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7A.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.15, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Notes with appreciation the continued efforts by the State Party to implement the corrective measures towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), including forest restoration activities, addressing encroachment, strengthening community engagement in ecosystem restoration, continuing species monitoring and patrolling efforts, and the reaffirmed absence of mining concessions, exploration permits or new roads within the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to continue implementing the corrective measures and to submit a detailed report on the progress, including an overview of:*
 - a) *The extent to which the DSOCR indicators on forest cover, population trend data for key species of fauna, road development, mining, boundary demarcation, law enforcement and management of the wider landscape have been achieved,*
 - b) *The actions needed to achieve the remainder of the DSOCR indicators to enable the eventual removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and*
 - c) *An action plan and timeline to implement the above;*
5. *Also notes with appreciation the continued moratorium on new forest concessions and restoration activities, and also requests the State Party to report on any forest loss within the property, and to prioritize restoration activities in ecologically sensitive areas, wildlife corridors and roadsides;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to implement a systematic survey for the four key species (Sumatran tiger, rhino, elephant and orangutan) using standard replicable methods to enable a property-wide analysis of population status and monitor trends over time;*
7. *Welcomes the continued commitment to not approve new road developments within the property and to mitigate the effects of existing roads, takes note that no request for the construction or improvement of the Muara Situlen-Gelombang road through Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) has been submitted and would not be approved, and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure full implementation of the mitigation measures for the Karo-Langkat road;*

8. *Notes the submission of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports for the proposed upgrade of Sanggi-Bengkunat road segment and widening of the Bukit Tapan-Sungai Penuh road segment within the property, reiterates its request for the State Party to clarify the current status of these projects, and requests furthermore the State Party not to proceed with these projects, given the potential impacts of forest clearance and increasing habitat fragmentation, and that, based on the submitted EIAs, proposed mitigation measures are not clearly demonstrated to result in minimal or no impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
9. *Noting the proximity of the proposed Trans-Sumatran Highway to the GLNP, requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that the assessment of potential impacts also ensures there would be no impact on the OUV of the property, and to ensure that all potential development proposals are assessed for their potential impacts on the OUV in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;*
10. *Also welcomes the focus of the Ministerial Decree on ‘Coordination Team of Management and Preparing of Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (TRHS) and Komodo National Park Natural World Heritage’ on accelerating efforts to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, optimizing and synergizing its management, as well as preparing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property and urges the State Party to implement these efforts, especially completion of the SEA in line with the aforementioned Guidance and international best practice standards;*
11. *Further notes with appreciation that there continues to be no mining within the property and that the State Party has rejected several dam proposals, however, also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide information on four hydropower dams (Soraya Dam, Jambo Aye Dam, Kluet Dam and Samarkilang Dam), mining projects located within the Leuser Ecosystem in the vicinity of GLNP, and the spatial plan to manage the Leuser Ecosystem;*
12. *Further welcomes the State Party’s commitment to prepare a Significant Boundary Modification for the property, requests furthermore that this process be informed by a clear identification and assessment of the OUV based on the Statement of OUV and be in line with the recommendations of previous Committee Decisions and Reactive Monitoring missions, and encourages the State Party to seek further technical guidance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, as required;*
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;*
14. *Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the property;*
15. *Also decides to retain Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*