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World Heritage in Portugal

## **ROYAL BUILDING OF MAFRA**

**Palace, Basilica, Convent, *Cerco* Garden and  
Hunting Park (*Tapada*)**

**Report on the state of conservation of the Royal  
Building of Mafra and status of implementation of  
recommendations in World Heritage Committee  
Decision 45 COM 7B.196**

November 2024

## **1. Executive summary of the report**

The organizations that guarantee the management of the Royal Building of Mafra (namely the National Palace of Mafra, the School of Arms, the National *Tapada* of Mafra, the Municipality of Mafra and the Parish of Santo André), produce and implement specific management plans that reflect their missions and competences. These organizations share a common commitment to the property. And, for that reason, their different management plans complement each other to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of each component of the property. The same organizations also work together towards the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's recommendations, while the different management plans are not consolidated in a single document. The different organisations' management plans include the maintenance plans for the six historic organs of the basilica, the carillons and the clocks on the bell towers; the Strategic Plan, and respective Action Plan, of the National *Tapada* of Mafra that include the complete inventory of the different fauna and flora species that inhabit its territory; and the Ancient Landscapes of the *Tapada* of Mafra project that aims at developing an archaeological, heritage and environmental study of the *Tapada*.

In the North Wing of the National Palace of Mafra, rehabilitation work proceeds in various areas to improve the Palace's operating conditions and receive the collections of the National Museum of Music. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Portuguese Army, represented by the School of Arms, and the Municipality of Mafra has been extended with the purpose of completing the rehabilitation of the Military Parade square. For such purposes, a landscape architectural report of the area is currently under preparation. In the Military *Tapada*, derelict buildings in an advanced state of degradation, built in mid-20th century, are meant for demolition. Also, regarding the Military *Tapada*, the School of Arms has submitted the Descriptive and Justificatory Memorandum for the shed it intends to build to park tactile vehicles [Please see Annex 11]. Works are also planned in the *Cerco* Garden but the respective studies and projects will only be developed in 2025.

Considering the effective collaboration among the organizations that manage the Property, who regularly meet as a Cooperation Unit and play an advisory role to their governing bodies, there has been no need to convene any meeting of the Advisory Unit. The organizations foreseen in the Advisory Unit will be consulted whenever issues arise that may impact the Property's management or the preservation of its Outstanding Universal Value.

Lastly, the EU Recovery and Resilience Plan comprises three major renovation works to take place in the Royal Building of Mafra until 2026: the already mentioned 1) renovation of the North Wing which is in an advanced state; 2) the restoration of the Basilica and Library of the Palace; 3) the rehabilitation of the surrounding perimeter of the Palace and Convent (part of the Royal Building of Mafra). These last two projects, still in the public tender phase, are expected to begin in early 2025.