

REPORT
of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS
Reactive Monitoring mission
to the World Heritage property ‘Centennial Hall in Wrocław’ (Poland)
10-12 September 2024



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The mission team would like to express its gratitude to the Polish authorities for their kind hospitality and for the excellent arrangements put in place to ensure the smooth running of the mission. The programme of the mission, combining meetings with various stakeholders with on-site visits and discussions, allowed the mission team to receive first-hand information on the issues and challenges that the relevant authorities and site managers are facing in the preservation of the World Heritage property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław'.

The mission team would like to convey its special thanks to Anna Marconi-Betka, Chief of the World Heritage Sites Unit at the National Institute of Cultural Heritage, for her efforts in ensuring the success of the mission. The mission team was privileged to be accompanied throughout its visits and meetings by the representatives of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, the National Institute of Cultural Heritage, including its Regional Office in Wrocław, the Wrocław City Council, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, and the site managers.

Meetings with these representatives and other stakeholders, including NGO representatives, helped the mission team to receive comprehensive information on the issues to be assessed. Our thanks go to all stakeholders for their inputs and efforts to make the mission as informative and fruitful as possible.

The mission team would also like to acknowledge the tireless engagement and determination of the site managers and local authorities to safeguard, improve and promote the property.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the World Heritage property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' was undertaken from 10 to 12 September 2024 in response to World Heritage Committee Decision 45 COM 7B.194, following concerns raised about a number of projects undertaken in the property, its buffer zone and wider setting with potential negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as well as following lack of dialogue between the State Party and the World Heritage Centre. This mission aimed to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, evaluate the impact of completed, ongoing and planned projects on the attributes conveying the property's OUV, and review the management system in place. The previous joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place in 2011.

The management of the World Heritage property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' has been impaired for many years due to the fragmented responsibilities among various bodies guided by national and local provisions that do not guarantee the safeguarding of the property's OUV. The lack of a cohesive legislative framework and inadequate organizational and financial conditions leave little room for adhering to the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines. This situation is exacerbated by the lack of incentives for stakeholders to follow these guidelines, leading to missed funding opportunities and a systematic lack of timely notification to the World Heritage Centre of major restorations or new constructions that could affect the OUV. Despite the commitment of local stakeholders, the property suffers from the absence of an effective management system. This systemic problem is unlikely to improve without addressing the underlying issues, which include the general protection requirements for World Heritage properties in Poland and the specific situation of the 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław'. National legislation in Poland does not provide specific rules for World Heritage properties, and there is no national funding system for them. The fragmented nature of the property further complicates its management, as different entities operate independently without a unified mechanism to protect the OUV.

The overall state of conservation of the property can be considered satisfactory. The Centennial Hall itself remains in fair condition following recent restoration efforts, though would benefit from having the advertisement and signage posters removed from its exterior walls. However, with regard to the attributes conveying the OUV of the property, a major concern is the addition of a glass roof over the courtyard of the Four Domes Pavilion, an intervention completed in 2015 without a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and with no prior notification to the World Heritage Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, as required by paragraph 172. This structure disrupts the original spatial dialogue between the Pavilion and the Centennial Hall and affects key sightlines that were integral to the property's original design. The mission concludes that this addition impacts negatively on the authenticity of the property.

Within the property, some buildings require greater attention to improve their state of conservation, such as the Children's Sanatorium in need of rehabilitation or the building of the Institute for Power System Automation, while some temporary installations, such as a fairly large Fun Park or food truck area, have introduced elements that detract from the historic environment of the property and should be removed. Within the property, the project to replace the decorative and well-preserved garden of perennials, created in the mid-1980s, with a replica of the original layout is again planned to be carried out without an HIA, which should be used as a tool to assess the project's impact on the property's OUV. The project should be put on hold immediately until an HIA is undertaken and shared with the World Heritage Centre in order to benefit from an ICOMOS technical review and guidance.

Regarding recent developments in the wider setting of the property, particularly the now completed Great Island Avenue road project, it was carried out without an HIA and raised concerns about its scale and impact. While no immediate negative impact of the project on the property's OUV could be observed by the mission, vigilance is required to prevent further deterioration of the wider setting from cumulative impacts of future projects. In particular, the mission notes the potential for incremental changes in the buffer zone through possible future development of the wide avenue northwards.

The mission concludes that the most acute problematic area and the biggest factor affecting the state of conservation of the property is its dysfunctional management system exacerbated by the absence of an updated and well-functioning Management Plan, and provides recommendations to the World Heritage Committee on how the State Party can improve the situation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The mission recommends that the World Heritage Committee remind the State Party of the importance and purpose of a management system in ensuring the effective protection of the property for present and future generations and request it to ensure that the property's OUV, including its authenticity and integrity, is protected in the long term through a solid and well-functioning management system. In particular, the mission recommends that the World Heritage Committee request the State Party to undertake the following actions to strengthen the property's management system, ensure more effective urban control and improve its overall state of conservation.

Management system

- Strengthen the management system and related mechanisms to ensure that Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines concerning early notification to the World Heritage Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of the State Party's intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property is systematically implemented.
- Develop mechanisms to integrate HIAs into the management system to ensure that for all projects, irrespective of their scale and nature, appropriate assessments are carried out in accordance with the methodology of the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, focusing on the attributes that convey the property's OUV and their capacity to convey it.
- Develop a cumulative HIA for all projects undertaken in the property, its buffer zone and wider setting since its inscription, as a basis for assessing potential negative impacts on the attributes conveying the OUV of the property, and identifying mitigation measures so that they can be integrated into the revised management plan.
- Incorporate into the revised Management Plan an overall Development Plan for the property and its buffer zone that provides an understanding of how implemented and planned projects support the OUV of the property or how some of the implemented projects have undermined the integrity and authenticity of its attributes.
- Finalise the revised Management Plan for the property by the end of 2025 and submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its formal adoption.

Individual projects undertaken or planned

- Remove the large video screen with animated advertisements and the signage posters on the exterior walls of the Centennial Hall.
- Consider replacing the asphalt walkway underneath the pergola with a mineral surface conforming to the original situation.
- Plan the removal of the glass roof over the courtyard of the Four Domes Pavilion at the earliest possible time in order to restore this important attribute to its original shape.
- Regarding the planned replacement of the perennial garden to the east of the Terrace Restaurant, undertake an HIA in accordance with the methodology of the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, and share it together with detailed documentation on the project with the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS before taking decisions. The project should be put on hold until these steps have been taken.
- Continue efforts to identify funding to restore the historic building of the Children's Sanatorium within the property.
- Replace the plastic windows in the building of the Institute for Power System Automation with new windows in appropriate material, design and construction.
- Remove the Fun Park and the food truck area from the territory of the property and its buffer zone.
- Abandon the introduction of the new over-designed benches in the Szczytnicki Park.
- It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee seek assurances from the State Party that the Great Island Avenue will not be continued northwards and impact on the buffer zone of the property.

I. THE PROPERTY

The Centennial Hall, a landmark in the history of reinforced concrete architecture, was erected in 1911-1913 by the architect Max Berg as a multi-purpose recreational building, situated in the Exhibition Grounds. In form it is a symmetrical quatrefoil with a vast circular central space that can seat some 6,000 persons. The 23m-high dome is topped with a lantern in steel and glass. The Centennial Hall is a pioneering work of modern engineering and architecture, which exhibits an important interchange of influences in the early 20th century, becoming a key reference in the later development of reinforced concrete structures.

The Centennial Hall was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2006 by Decision 30 COM 8B.47 of the World Heritage Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- Criterion (i): The Centennial Hall in Wrocław is a creative and innovative example in the development of construction technology in large reinforced concrete structures. The Centennial Hall occupies a key position in the evolution of methods of reinforcement used in architecture, and represents one of the climactic points in the history of the use of metal in structural consolidation.
- Criterion (ii): The Centennial Hall is a pioneering work of Modern engineering and architecture, which exhibits an important interchange of influences in the early 20th century, becoming a key reference in the later development of reinforced concrete structures.
- Criterion (iv): As part of the Exhibition Grounds of Wrocław, the Centennial Hall is an outstanding example of Modern recreational architecture that served a variety of purposes, ranging from hosting conferences and exhibitions to concerts, theatre and opera. The World Heritage Committee inscribed the property as a cultural site.

The property's boundaries include the entire extant central part of the Exhibition Grounds. After the end of the Centennial Exhibition in 1913, temporary architectural features and seasonal garden plantings were removed. Some permanent structures, such as the roof of the colonnade of the main entrance and the restaurant building with its open terrace, were destroyed during the Second World War. Despite some losses, the most important attributes situated on the two main axes of the Exhibition Grounds survive to this day: the Centennial Hall, the Four Domes Pavilion, the colonnade of the main entrance and the pergola with its pond. The Japanese Garden and the wooden Baroque church are also extant. In 1948, the composition of the Exhibition Grounds was supplemented with a steel spire designed by Stanisław Hempel, which was placed in the middle of the 'forum'.

A retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session in 2014 (Decision 38 COM 8E) and can be found in Annex VI. The property of 36.69 ha has a buffer zone of 189.68 ha.

The property was in reactive monitoring in 2011-2012 and then again, since 2023. A first joint World Heritage Center/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place in November 2011. The factors affecting the property identified in previous state of conservation reports include management issues, lack of overall development plan for the property and its buffer zone, and large-scale projects, including the Eastern Bridge road proposal.

II. SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY

According to the State Party's periodic report, submitted within the 3rd cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Europe and North America region in 2023, the Polish legislation system for heritage protection is based on the following provisions:

- Protection and guardianship of monuments Act (23.7.2003);
- Land Use and Development Planning Act (27.3.2003);
- Law on Environmental Protection (2001);
- Law on Access to Information on the Environment and Its Protection and on Environmental Impact Assessments (2000).

The entire World Heritage property as well as its buffer zone are covered by the Local Spatial Development Plans, which provides additional legal protection for the area.

Monument protection comprises measures and activities to ensure the permanent preservation of historical monuments, as well as their maintenance and enhancement. Forms of protection for cultural heritage include: inscription in the National Register of Monuments, recognition as a Monument of History, the establishment of a cultural park as well as the establishment of protection measures in the local spatial development plans. The qualification as Monument of History is the highest recognition for a monument in Poland and is established by the President of Poland further to the request of the Minister of Culture, through a special decree. The provision describes the characteristics and the extraordinary values of the monument, defines its boundaries and includes a map of the object. According to the Polish Act, only Monuments of History can be proposed for inscription on the World Heritage List.

Protection of historical monuments is carried out at the level of the voivodeship, county and municipality:

- the Centennial Hall and its surroundings (intended only as the ground with its layout) was declared 'Monument of History' by the President of Poland's Ordinance 13.4.2005 (Journal Act n. 64 position 570);
- the Centennial Hall building was inserted in the Register of Monuments following decision n. A/5291/198 on 24.4.1962;
- the Centennial Hall collective, comprising the Centennial Hall building, the Four Domes Pavilion, the Restaurant Pavilion, the Pergola, the Colonnade and the Spire have been inserted in the Register of Monuments following Decision n. A/5259/343/Wm on 15.4.1977;
- the Szczytnicki Park, which includes in its perimeter the Centennial Hall and the Exhibition grounds, was inserted in the Register of Monuments following decision n. A/2791/194 on 15.2.1962;
- some buildings in the settlement of Dąbie are protected through planning instruments (Local Plan n. 101, resolution City Council of Wrocław Nr VI/87/03 of 20.2003).

Additionally, also the settlements of Sepolno and Biskupin are protected for their historic value at the national level.

The measures foreseen by Polish legislation to ensure heritage protection encompass the obligation of including cultural heritage protection issues in Environmental Impact Assessments (Act on sharing information about the environment and its protection,

participation in environment protection by the society and Environmental Impact Assessments, 2000).

The property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' comprises structures belonging to, and managed by, several different entities: the Centennial Hall building and exhibition grounds, including the pergola, are in the Municipality of Wrocław's ownership since 2005, when they were acquired from the State. The complex is managed by the Wrocławskie Przedsiębiorstwo Hala Ludowa Sp. z o.o. The management of the Centennial Board is supervised by the Municipal and Dolnośląski Regional Conservator of Historical Monuments. The Four Domes Pavilion is still owned by the State and managed by the National Museum, whilst the buildings delimiting the entry colonnade and the alley belong to the State and are managed respectively by the Wrocław Feature Film Studio and the Institute for Power System Automation. The remaining parts of the property are owned by the municipality and managed by the City Greenery Board. The buffer zone is in mixed ownership: the Szczytnicki Park and certain adjoining grounds are in the municipality's ownership, whilst built-up areas and buildings are privately owned and managed by their respective owners.

III. THE MISSION

In its Decision 45 COM 7B.194 (Riyadh, 2023), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the World Heritage property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' to assess the impacts of all completed and ongoing projects in the property, its buffer zone and wider setting on the attributes of its OUV, to examine planned projects that may have an impact on the property and to assess its overall state of conservation (Terms of Reference in Annex I).

The State Party extended an invitation for the mission by a letter of 29 January 2024 from the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and General Conservator of Monuments, Bożena Żelazowska, while inviting the World Heritage Centre to consider organising it after 10 May 2024 due to the local government elections in Poland the commitment of the municipal authorities in their preparations. The World Heritage Centre had encouraged the State Party to invite the mission earlier to be able to report on its findings to the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee. Since this was not feasible, the World Heritage Centre replied to the State Party's invitation by suggesting organising the mission in the week of 9 September 2024, which the Committee noted in its Decision 46 COM 7B.12 (New Delhi, 2024), regretting, however, that 'the timeframe proposed by the State Party did not allow the Committee to examine the resulting report at its current session'.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place from 10 to 12 September 2024. The mission team consisted of Irena Caquet (UNESCO World Heritage Centre) and Leo Schmidt (ICOMOS International). The mission programme (Annex IV) combined on-site visits of various locations within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting with detailed presentations on the main issues. The mission programme allowed the mission team to gather information on completed, ongoing and planned projects in the property, its buffer zone and wider setting, as well as to gain insights about the property's challenges over the past years, including challenges related to the key issue of the management and protection of the property.

The well-designed mission programme included meetings bringing together the representatives of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, the National Institute of Cultural Heritage, including its Regional Office in Wrocław, Dolnośląski Regional Conservator of Monuments, the Wrocław City Council, including the Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Wrocław for the management of the area inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, and the site managers. Moreover, the mission team held a meeting with the Vice-President of the Polish National Committee ICOMOS and with NGO 'Akcja Park Szczytnicki', which has been vocal in sharing its concerns about the property over many years (full list of persons met is in Annex V).

The report of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property will be brought to the attention of the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session (Sofia, 2025). Its findings will be taken into account in the analysis of the state of conservation of the property, together with an updated report on the state of conservation expected from the State Party by 1 February 2025, which will be brought to the attention of the Committee at that session.

IV. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY

A. IMPACTS OF ALL COMPLETED AND ONGOING PROJECTS IN THE PROPERTY ON THE ATTRIBUTES OF ITS OUV

Since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2006, a number of projects of significant size have been carried out or are currently underway within the property, its buffer zone and the wider setting. In the following paragraphs, these projects are named and discussed on the basis of the information received prior to and during the mission and of the observations during the visual inspection of the property and its surroundings, with a focus on the projects carried out since the 2011 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property.

1. THE CENTENNIAL HALL

The central and signature element of the property and the main attribute of its OUV is the Centennial Hall itself, the large domed structure erected in 1913, constructed of concrete with raw, untreated surfaces, both externally and internally. An extensive project of restoration, rehabilitation and modernisation of the Centennial Hall was nearing completion at the time of the 2011 mission. It included repair of the historic concrete structure and the windows as well as clearing the interiors and adding new elements to allow its use for a wide variety of public events, in keeping with its original function and use. The project included the insertion of a newly designed visitors' centre within the Centennial Hall, the Discovery Centre, that opened in 2012. A final phase of rehabilitation of the Hall was carried out in 2019-20.

In view of its relevance for the OUV of the property, the restoration and rehabilitation of the Centennial Hall should be regarded as successful. The mission found only some aspects of the exterior views less successful. For one thing, the yellowish tinct of the Hall has been criticised by third parties and the question was raised whether the current appearance conforms to the original colour of the structure. Apparently, it is the effect of later measures, and whilst it is debatable whether the colour is in itself a problem, there is a certain dissonance with the neutral and cold grey of the Terrace Restaurant and Event Centre, which, however, were reconstructed at a later stage.



The south front of the building bears a very large video screen showing animated advertisements. This screen clashes with the design and quality of the Hall. Another somewhat insensitive and intrusive element is the signage affixed at some points of the Hall's walls, for example for the Terrace Restaurant. These elements are not in keeping with the OUV of the property and its central building and should be removed.



2. THE TERRACE RESTAURANT AND EVENT CENTRE

The Terrace Restaurant and Event Centre was built on the basis of the (war-damaged) original terrace building but greatly extending the structure to both sides and redesigning its outward appearance. As this was executed in 2008-2010, it was assessed by the 2011 mission, which noted that the renovation of the restaurant, having been carried out following an international design competition, showed some shortcomings in design and realization that made the final result of this intervention not entirely satisfactory.

3. THE PERGOLA

The south front of the Terrace Restaurant facing the Hall and the large, horseshoe-shaped basin on the north side are framed by a monumental pergola, constructed from concrete elements, consisting of pairs of vaguely classical columns bearing a massive entablature roofed by wooden lattice work and covered by creeper plants. Photographs seem to show that the renovation of the pergola structure has caused a great deal of loss and replacement of original fabric, and in retrospect, it cannot be properly judged whether this was entirely justified. The walkway underneath the pergola is currently covered with asphalt; it is planned to replace this with a mineral surface conforming to the original situation, which the mission encourages.

4. THE FOUR DOMES PAVILION

Second only to the Centennial Hall itself, the Four Domes Pavilion contributes greatly to the OUV of the World Heritage property, being a remarkable creation of the architect Hans Poelzig. He designed this building for the 1913 exhibition in a way that it communicated, on artistic and engineering levels, with Max Berg's much larger central structure, thus producing a fascinating built dialogue on architectural ideas and principles of the time.

This artistic interaction between the two buildings, and indeed much of the architectural core values of the Four Domes Pavilion itself, have been destroyed by an ill-designed steel and glass structure constructed in 2015 and covering the interior courtyard of the pavilion. In its architectural concept, the pavilion was conceived to have an exterior aspect – facing south towards the approach to the Hall from the west, but also to be seen from various viewpoints such as from the Centennial Hall or from further away in the garden area – but equally an interior aspect from the Imperial Garden in its centre, encased by the four wings of the pavilion building, with an ornamental fountain in its centre surmounted by a statue of Pallas Athena. Remarkably, the interior courtyard was the only location from which all four of the domed

pavilions which gave the building its name could be seen. Furthermore, it was an important feature of the courtyard that it offered a view of the massive cupola of Berg's Centennial Hall itself that loomed over Poelzig's smaller building and communicated with it, being present as a fifth dome augmenting the four around the courtyard.

The new steel construction surmounting the whole of the interior yard creates such a dense and impenetrable network of girders and profiles that the four domed pavilions surmounting the centres of the four sides can only dimly be seen from within the courtyard. Furthermore, the formerly dominant view towards the Centennial Hall is now obstructed to such a degree that only a visitor who is actively searching for a glimpse of the neighbouring building will be able to ascertain that it is fact there. For all intents and purposes, the original dialogue of the two buildings, that was clearly intended by Poelzig as a feature and quality of the design, has been destroyed. Moreover, the glass roof over the courtyard is seen from one of the key viewpoints in the property, where many visitors pass – from the area in front of the Terrace Restaurant thus impacting the visual integrity of the property.



It remains unclear whether the new roof serves a sensible purpose, let alone whether there was a need for it. The area cannot be used to display paintings since it is not protected from sunshine. In view of the fact that the doorways opening onto the courtyard are all rather small in size, it can neither be used for displaying larger statuary. Moreover, there does not seem to be a dire shortage of space in the rooms of the four wings around the yard. But even if there had been a need for a roof, a far less obstructive structure and a more delicate design could have been considered. The State Party should have ensured that a Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out as a pre-requisite for such a major development project within the

World Heritage property in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

As it is, the new roof over the courtyard of the Four Domes Pavilion must be assessed as a serious impairment to the OUV of the property, impacting negatively not only the Pavilion, which is one of its key attributes, but also the significance of the overall architectural concept in relation to the Centennial Hall. The mission therefore recommends planning the new roof's removal at the earliest possible time, despite the costs incurred in its construction, in order to restore this important attribute to its original shape.

5. WFF BUILDING

As far as could be ascertained, the recent renovation activities at the WFF (Wrocław Feature Film Studio) building flanking the western approach to the Centennial Hall on its northern side have not caused any harm to its architectural character and details, both outside and inside.

6. IASE BUILDING

The building of the IASE (Institute for Power System Automation) flanking the western approach to the Centennial Hall on its southern side has seen a certain amount of interior reorganisation and reshaping to make it usable for a wide variety of events and purposes, providing space for exhibitions or conferences. In view of the fact that the building suffered damage during and after World War II, these changes and adaptations do not seem to have caused any loss of significance. On its exterior, the building's appearance is impaired by elements that seem to go back to repairs and restorations before the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List – namely the wide areas of blue glass characterising the modern windows facing west and east, but also the UPVC windows on the northern facade towards the access area of the site which seem to be near the end of their expected lifespan. Both these window elements would seem to be obvious candidates for more sympathetic replacements. The mission recommends replacing the plastic windows with new windows in appropriate material and construction.



7. PARKLANDS

The World Heritage property extends to include a small but significant portion of the historic Szczytnicki Park, whereas a larger portion of the park is included in the buffer zone towards the north and the east of the property. The park is being managed according to principles in which aspects of ecology and of popular expectations appear to have rather more weight than established principles of managing historic gardens. This becomes apparent in the attitude

towards dying and dead trees which are left to decay and to become habitats for all sorts of animals rather than being removed and replaced by appropriate new plantations. Having said that, it is not suggested that this approach is necessarily detrimental to the OUV of the property. There are projects afoot to modernise and beautify aspects of the park, such as replacing the rather unsympathetic asphalted walkways with mineral ones. Unfortunately, this also includes introducing newly designed park benches and rubbish bins: with their massive concrete bases and very high backs, the benches introduce an alien and overdesigned element into the park, in comparison to the harmless and traditional benches currently in place. The mission recommends abandoning the introduction of the new over-designed benches in the Szczytnicki Park.



The original park of 1913 included a Japanese Garden designed by Fritz von Hochberg. This Japanese Garden, renovated in 1997, has recently been painstakingly reconstructed following severe flood damage. The mission team commends the efforts invested in its upkeep.

8. FUN PARK

A field directly adjoining the pergola on the east side of the horseshoe-shaped pond has been transformed into a Fun Park for children, offering very large and brightly coloured inflated plastic playground structures. Situated within the property and in the immediate vicinity of the Centennial Hall, this Fun Park constitutes a serious visual impairment of the property and should be removed.



9. UNDERGROUND CAR PARK

Instead of a much-criticised multi-story car park that was to be built on the eastern side of the Hall, an underground car park was executed. It is served by a number of pavilions on the ground level. There is also an open-air parking lot on ground level which apparently is rather more attractive and used by drivers wanting to park their car – many or most of them wanting to visit the zoo located in the southern buffer zone of the property.

10. FOOD TRUCK AREA

Directly adjoining the south side of the Centennial Hall, and facing the large video screen mentioned above that is mounted on the building's south front, is a dedicated food truck area consisting of several brightly coloured pavilions offering fast-food that can be consumed in a seating area in front of them. With its bright colours and the odours produced by the frying fast food, the establishment clashes intrusively with the central element of the World Heritage property and should be removed.



B. PROJECTS WITHIN THE BUFFER ZONE

11. THE SZCZYTNIICKI PARK

The greater part of the Szczytnicki Park is situated in the buffer zone north of the property. In this area the historic parklands are being cared for in the same ways as the park within the property.

The landscaped area in the buffer zone east of the property includes the WUWA (*Wohnung und Werkraum Ausstellung*) housing estate, a model residential estate produced as an architectural exhibition in 1929 and consisting of buildings by a number of prominent architects at the time. These buildings have been well restored, and their significance is communicated by some added interpretation elements such as a large model of the estate.



The southern portion of the buffer zone is dominated by the zoological gardens. These contain the newly built Afrykarium, a building of considerable size that does however seem to disappear amongst the trees of the zoo gardens, which is in line with the recommendation made by ICOMOS in its June 2013 Technical Review.

C. PROJECTS WITHIN THE WIDER SETTING

12. GREAT ISLAND AVENUE

The large road project of the Great Island Avenue has been a contentious project for a number of years, notably due to concerns that it would be a large four-lane highway type road and would integrate the Wrocław ring road. On two occasions, in 2011 and 2012 (Decisions 35 COM 7B.101 and 36 COM 7B.80 respectively), requested the State Party to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment of the potential impact of the road project on the setting of the property and to submit it, together with any revised plans, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The road has since been built and completed, without a Heritage Impact Assessment. The project produced a stretch of fast road around three kilometres in length, including two new bridges. The road is very wide: its broad overall area includes bicycle tracks separated from the two-lane road by a very wide green strip planted with trees; further trees are planted on the outsides of the bicycle tracks – four rows of trees altogether. Although offering – as the result of protest against the originally planned four lanes – only two lanes for motor traffic, the gash produced by the road could easily accommodate four lanes if that would to be deemed desirable by the city planners at some future point in time.



There can be little doubt that this road project brought significant changes to the area east of the buffer zone of the World Heritage property and that these changes were painful to witness and to experience for some of the residents, particularly those in the immediate vicinity. The project, carried through without regard to established consultation processes regarding World Heritage properties, as outlined in Paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, is now a *fait accompli* and it is difficult, if not impossible, to say what would have been the outcome had those consultation processes been followed.

Regarding its immediate effect on the World Heritage property however, the mission is of the opinion that no obvious negative impact on the property and its OUV could be identified. There has no doubt been loss of vegetation along the eastern side of the buffer zone, but it seems that those were trees of spontaneous growth and without historic or cultural significance. The mission has also been assured that no new building structures will be erected in the area along the road in this part. Nor could it be said that the new road appears to have any negative impact on the amount of car traffic on the Zygmunt Wroblewskiego Street passing between property and buffer zone just south of the Centennial Hall.

However, any look at a map of the area begs the question whether the current situation is actually the end of any changes to the wider setting of the property and whether further plans are in store. At the moment, the newly built, wide road ends abruptly at the crossroads with Adama Mickiewicza Street. Currently much of the traffic flows to and from the eastern branch of this street to and from the bridge Boleslaw Chrobogo, but the question remains whether the Great Island Avenue is not part of a ring road scheme. This would involve its extension to the north through what is currently a fairly narrow road, Alley Ignacego Jana Paderewskiego – an extension that would not be possible without significant impact on the edge of the historic parkland of the Szczytnicki Park in the north-eastern corner of the buffer zone. In response to a direct question whether the Great Island Avenue will be extended further north, the representative of the city's Spatial Planning Department stated unequivocally, 'the Great Island Avenue ends there' and denied that there is any vision to extend it further north.

The mission therefore recommends vigilance in view of potential future developments. To that end, it is recommended that the World Heritage Committee seek assurances from the State Party that the Great Island Avenue will not be continued northwards and impact on the buffer zone of the property.

D. EXAMINING PLANNED PROJECTS THAT MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PROPERTY'S OUV

The mission was presented with little information about any planned projects that may have an impact on the property's OUV. From the documentation received prior to the mission and the information obtained during the mission, there appear to be plans only for two areas within the property.

1. CHILDREN'S SANATORIUM

One possible project concerns the rehabilitation and re-use of the building of the day-care centre for children with pulmonary problems designed by the architect Richard Konwiarz in the context of the 1929 WUWA exhibition. It is situated just north-east of the pergola surrounding the pond and fountain. Whilst not part of the original scheme, the building added a significant new layer to the history of the place and should therefore be preserved if feasible. It is however in a very bad state of preservation, and funding for its rehabilitation has not yet been secured. According to the information received, there are plans to renovate the building for educational activities for children and older people and make it also suitable for training courses and conferences. A garden is planned in front of the building, which will not only be used for relaxation but will also allow for outdoor activities. The mission encourages the State Party to identify funding to restore this historic building within the property.



2. PERENNIAL GARDEN

Of serious concern is a project regarding the decorative garden within the property, located immediately north of the car park and east of the Terrace Restaurant. In its final section on the activities of the City Greenery Board in Wrocław, the short document 'Information about investment plans' of 23 August 2024 very briefly mentions that 'work is planned in another sector – the restoration of the perennial garden'. As it turned out during the mission, the alleged 'restoration' is in fact a plan to destroy an element of the inscribed property, namely the decorative and well-preserved garden of perennials, which was created in the mid-1980s by

the garden designer Janusz Szymanski. The plan is to remove it and to replace it with a replica of the original layout of this part of the site.

No reasoning for this plan was presented, nor is it clear whether sufficient documentation exists to allow a reliable reconstruction of the original situation. In any case, it should be underlined that the garden designed by Szymanski is an original and very well thought-out design and should be respected as a work characteristic of its time. It should be seen as an important contribution to the site, and as it is within the property and in a direct relationship to the Centennial Hall it forms part of the OUV of the property as inscribed on the World Heritage List. Any plans to destroy and replace it must be thoroughly assessed through a Heritage Impact Assessment carried out in accordance with the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and communicated in detail, together with the outcomes of the assessment, to the World Heritage Centre before taking decisions.

Apart from the above, it should be pointed out that the method of mentioning it only very briefly in the documentation provided and misleadingly calling it a 'restoration' is indicative of the concern expressed by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision 45 COM 7B.194 'that the State Party did not comply with the requirements of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and has not provided to the World Heritage Centre timely information about large-scale projects which have now been completed or are in an advanced stage of development that may have the potential to negatively impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property'.

E. THE OVERALL STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY AND FACTORS AND CONSERVATION ISSUES THAT COULD POTENTIALLY IMPACT ON ITS OUV, INCLUDING ITS CONDITIONS OF INTEGRITY, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

1. STATE OF CONSERVATION

In consequence of a series of individual projects ('interventions') over the last decade and more, most of the elements of the World Heritage property are in a state of conservation that can be assessed as 'fair to good'. As has been mentioned above, some of the projects carried out within the property or in the buffer zone did not sufficiently take the OUV of the property into account or even actively impaired it, such as the roof over the courtyard of the Four Domes Pavilion. But apart from it, as well as the dilapidated state of the Children's Sanatorium and the somewhat tired appearance of the IASE Building with its plastic windows, the historic architectural elements of the property appear to be in a good state of preservation. The historic parkland and the gardens are in parts somewhat overgrown, but the continuing efforts by the City Greenery Board will no doubt carry on to reverse some of the effects of long neglect and decay.

It should be pointed out, however, that the current and mostly satisfactory state of conservation is due to the fact that most of the restoration and rehabilitation projects carried out within the property and its buffer zone have been fairly recent. It is not at all clear whether this state of affairs can be safeguarded. There appears to be no system in place of ensuring an overall continuing maintenance of the property nor secure funding to that end. A first taste of the problem became apparent during the mission because of a period of heavy rain: it became obvious that the much-trodden ground between the Terrace Restaurant and the pond has been

abraded to an extent that large and deep puddles appeared in places where many people walk.

2. PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

As is well documented in the state of conservation reports on the property presented to the World Heritage Committee over the years, the timely communication by the State Party of its 'intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property' (Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines), has been problematic. It has been one of the aims of the Reactive Monitoring mission to gain a better understanding of the causes for this continuing problem.

Apart from gathering a great deal of information and first-hand impressions of the component elements of the site, their state of conservation and the recent interventions that have been carried out or are underway, the mission was able to get some insights into the ways in which the property is being managed and the conditions governing the activities of those responsible for its different elements and aspects. The roots of the problems appear to be in the general protection requirements of World Heritage properties in Poland, but also in the specific situation of the property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław'.

The ownership situation of the entire World Heritage property is complex. The property comprises structures belonging to, and managed by, several different entities: the Centennial Hall building and exhibition grounds, including the pergola, are in the Municipality of Wrocław's ownership since 2005, when they were acquired from the State. The complex is managed by the Wrocławskie Przedsiębiorstwo Hala Ludowa Sp. z o.o. The management of the Centennial Board is supervised by the Municipal and Dolnośląski Regional Conservator of Historical Monuments. The Four Domes Pavilion is still owned by the State and managed by the National Museum, whilst the buildings delimiting the entry colonnade and the alley belong to the State and are managed respectively by the Wrocław Feature Film Studio and the Institute for Power System Automation. The remaining parts of the property are owned by the municipality and managed by the City Greenery Board.

The fact that the property is split into a confusing array of different bodies results in each of them running their own part of it according to their own conditions, their ideas and priorities, as well as their abilities to attract funding from external sources. For example, the Centennial Hall proper is run by a commercial company with its own ways of generating income from events and, amongst others, from the above-mentioned Fun Park. By contrast, the Four Domes Pavilion is a national museum and is therefore acting to a completely different set of rules and under very different conditions when it comes to applying for public funding, e.g. from the EU. Again, the WFF and the IASE buildings are run by different entities and operate in different conditions when it comes to decision making and funding. The open spaces and the parklands are a different matter again as they are looked after by the city's Greenery Board with its own personnel, priorities, decision-making processes and ways of getting funding for projects.

There is, on paper, a Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Wrocław for the management of the area inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, but by his own words there is little or nothing he can do in actual practice except perhaps organising informal meetings between the representatives of the different entities that manage the different parts of the World Heritage property. There is also not even a notional joint budget for any kind of works on maintenance or repair on the site, with each individual stakeholder relying on its income-generating activities, such as the Wrocławskie Przedsiębiorstwo Hala Ludowa, its limited own budget or occasional opportunities for external funding. Under these conditions, some of the individual actors are

more lucky or more successful than others in generating financial support for any projects, leading to the somewhat paradoxical situation in which some projects are carried out even if detrimental to the property's OUV simply because there is funding for them, whereas other needs cannot be addressed because no funding is available to address them. The complex ownership and management system of the property precludes channelling available resources in the direction of projects and activities that would enhance the protection of the OUV of the World Heritage property. It should be stressed, that the statement of the property's OUV, adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2014, mentions that 'all investment plans in the property and its buffer zone must be subordinate to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value, and the preservation of its character and historical spatial context'.

The root of the problem seems to be that the state of Poland has not generated any national laws regulating the protection and management of World Heritage properties. It might be said that legally, such sites do not exist in Poland. Therefore, any application for planning permission to carry out any building or conservation project in a World Heritage property is processed solely according to the regular conservation laws which are not concerned with matters such as OUV. This situation explains how it was possible that a massive intervention having a significant negative impact on the OUV of the property was possible, such as the construction of the steel and glass structure over the courtyard of the Four Domes Pavilion: in the process applying for planning permission, the regional conservator was only able to stipulate that the construction could not penetrate the existing fabric itself and had to stand independently from it, but he was not able to argue against the project due to its detrimental impact on the OUV of the property because this has no legal relevance under Poland's regulations governing the protection of monuments.

It was also argued, as another problematic factor, that there are, in most cases, time limits for decisions in application processes. This means that when a project (or an 'investment', as they are usually called in the documentation) is proposed by someone who has been successful in acquiring funding for some works, the clock is already ticking, and permissions have to be rushed through as otherwise the funding might be lost. This, of course, means that there is neither time nor inclination to follow the procedures of communicating with the World Heritage Centre about any planned projects.

In view of all these aspects, the management system for the World Heritage property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' is considered to be essentially dysfunctional. As a result, different investment plans and projects within the property and its buffer zone do not fulfil protection and management requirements of a World Heritage property: they must be, but are not presently, subordinate to the overarching objective of the protection of the OUV of the property and the preservation of its authenticity. Fulfilment of this objective will be through the implementation of a Management Plan for the area inscribed on the World Heritage List. The aim of this document is to coordinate activities related to the management and monitoring of the Centennial Hall complex and its buffer zone. The plan will ensure the sustainable use and functioning of the entire complex, taking into account social, environmental and economic issues, as well as the full use of its tourism potential and the landscape values of the property and its surroundings. This is underlined in the statement of the OUV of the property adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

Moreover, there is a need for the management system to include management mechanisms that allow for assessing the purpose of certain investments and their impacts on the attributes of the OUV of the property. Coordination and communication mechanisms should also be put in place to ensure the overall coherence of the management system.

Regarding the Management Plan for the property, the mission has clarified the situation as follows: the existing Management Plan (which exists only in Polish and has never been shared with the World Heritage Centre) is out-of-date and needs to be updated. However, on the local level no funds are available to update the plan. Moreover, the site managers seem to lack capacity, time and knowledge on how to do it properly. For instance, the attributes of the OUV of the property listed by the site manager in the report submitted by the State Party in 2023 as part of the 3rd cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in Europe and North America demonstrate challenges in understanding of what are the attributes of the property's OUV, including how to monitor their state of conservation.

The mission recommends to the World Heritage Committee to recall to the State Party the importance and the purpose of a management system in ensuring the effective protection of the nominated property for present and future generations (Paragraph 109 of the Operational Guidelines) and request the State Party to finalise the revised Management Plan for the property by the end of 2025 and to submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its formal adoption. As part of this process, the State Party should be requested, in line with Decisions 45 COM 7B.194 and 46 COM 7B.12 of the World Heritage Committee, to:

- strengthen the management system and related mechanisms to ensure that Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines is systematically implemented;
- develop mechanisms to integrate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into the management system to ensure that appropriate assessments are carried out in accordance with the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for all projects, irrespective of their scale and nature, on the attributes that convey the property's OUV and their capacity to convey it;
- incorporate into the revised Management Plan an overall Development Plan for the property and its buffer zone that provides an understanding as to how implemented and planned projects support the OUV of the property or how some of the implemented projects have undermined the integrity and authenticity of its attributes;
- develop a cumulative HIA for all projects undertaken in the property, its buffer zone and wider setting since its inscription, as a basis for assessing potential negative impacts on the attributes conveying the OUV of the property, and identifying mitigation measures so that they can be integrated into the revised management plan.

The mission team heard from the Deputy Director of the Department of Monuments Protection at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland and the National Focal Point for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, that the Ministry intends to allocate funds in 2025 dedicated to the update of the Management Plan for the World Heritage property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław'. This is a welcome intention, which will hopefully lead to an effective updated Management Plan. The Ministry's involvement and oversight of the management of the property should be strengthened in order to ensure that the State Party fulfils its obligations under the World Heritage Convention.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For many years the management of the World Heritage property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' has been impaired, and will continue to be impaired if no action is taken, by the fact that the numerous bodies responsible for the management of the property's components are guided by national and local provisions, which do not necessarily guarantee the safeguarding of the attributes conveying the OUV of the property and their capacity to convey it. Apart from the non-adapted legislative framework, the organisational and financial conditions under which the site managers are working leave no room for World Heritage-related considerations and systematic compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines. Furthermore, there is no incentive for actors to take those rules into account and to adhere to them. In their view, these procedures only complicate matters and adhering to them runs the risk of missing out on urgently needed funding.

It should be noted, however, that it has become evident throughout the mission that all parties involved – who are responsible for their respective segments of the complex agglomeration that constitutes the World Heritage property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' – are highly committed to their roles and are striving to achieve the optimal outcome for their respective portions of the overall task, as they perceive it. They tend to act independently and seize funding opportunities as they arise, without necessarily considering the broader needs and priorities of the site.

The conservation challenges faced by the property are a result of this situation, as is the systematic failure of the State Party to provide timely notification of its intention to undertake or to authorize major restorations or new constructions which may affect the OUV. Together, these factors resulted in the property being placed under reactive monitoring in 2011-2012 and subsequently in 2023. According to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, notice 'should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse'. Up to date, information has only been provided at the request of the World Heritage Centre and after decisions had already been made on large-scale projects within the property, its buffer zone and wider setting, such as the Terrace Restaurant, the underground car park, the adaptive reuse of the Four Domes Pavilion, the Afrykarium and the Great Island Avenue, among others. The mission found that this practice has continued, with only passing mention of the proposed replacement of the perennial garden within the site.

The mission concludes that the state of conservation of the attributes conveying the OUV of the property is mostly satisfactory, with the exception of the Four Domes Pavilion, with its negatively impactful new glass and steel roof over the courtyard, and the Children's Sanatorium, which is in need of rehabilitation. At the same time, the mission found that the property suffers from the lack of a viable and effective management system. Existing guidelines and procedures for World Heritage properties are being ignored and, as the reasons for this are systemic, it is unlikely that this state of affairs will change for the better unless the underlying problems are addressed. As stated earlier, these root problems appear to lie (i) in the general protection requirements for World Heritage properties in Poland, but also (ii) in the specific situation of the property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław'.

The essence of problem (i) lies in the fact that Polish national legislation does not provide for any specific regulations regarding World Heritage properties. As a result, the application procedures for planning permission are not subordinated to the protection of the OUV. It would be beneficial for all World Heritage properties in Poland if specific provisions for them were included in the national legal framework. Furthermore, there appears to be no national system

of funding for World Heritage properties. Site managers are expected to find their own funding for any projects and for the operation and maintenance of the site.

Whilst this challenge impacts World Heritage properties in Poland more generally, the situation in 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' is further complicated by the fact that (ii) what at first sight appears to be one single property is in fact a loose agglomeration of very different entities, each operating according to its own conditions, rules and priorities. There is no solid mechanism to pull them together with the common aim of protecting the OUV of the World Heritage property.

In this context, the mission would like to recall the provisions of Paragraph 117 of the Operational Guidelines: 'States Parties are responsible for implementing effective management activities for a World Heritage property. States Parties should do so in close collaboration with property managers, the agency with management authority and other partners, local communities and indigenous peoples, rights-holders and stakeholders in property management, by developing, when appropriate, equitable governance arrangements, collaborative management systems and redress mechanisms.'

While the mission considered that the local stakeholders are doing the best they can within the conditions in which they operate, the State Party's responsibilities under the World Heritage Convention require greater attention and involvement in (i) strengthening the management system of the property and related mechanisms to ensure that Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines is systematically implemented; and (ii) developing mechanisms to integrate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into the management system to ensure that appropriate assessments are carried out in accordance with the methodology of the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, for all projects that may impact the property's OUV.

To this end, a revised Management Plan for the property is of utmost importance and priority. It should be an instrument that incorporates an overall Development Plan for the property and its buffer zone, providing an understanding of how all implemented and planned projects support the OUV of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision 45 COM 7B.194. Moreover, a cumulative HIA of all projects undertaken in the property, its buffer zone and wider setting since its inscription should be undertaken and serve as a basis for assessing potential negative impacts on the attributes conveying the OUV of the property and identifying mitigation measures so that they can be integrated into the revised Management Plan, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision 46 COM 7B.12. The State Party should submit the final draft of the revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre before the end of 2025 for review by ICOMOS prior to its formal adoption.

In the absence of an effective management system, the current problematic situation would continue unchecked and could result in decisions that would be difficult to reverse, while having deleterious effects on the World Heritage property's inherent characteristics. The Four Domes Pavilion's transformation is illustrative of this problematic situation. The State Party should therefore be urged to ensure that the management system of the 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' and the related mechanisms and actors' responsibilities provide a solid and long-term framework for the protection of the OUV of the property, including its authenticity and integrity, and the sustainable use and functioning of the entire complex of the property and its surroundings.

VI. ANNEXES

Annex I: Terms of Reference of the mission

**Terms of Reference
Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission
to the World Heritage property
'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' (Poland)
(10-12 September 2024)**

I. Purpose of the Reactive Monitoring mission

In its Decision 45 COM 7B.194 (Riyadh, 2023), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the World Heritage property 'Centennial Hall in Wrocław' to assess the impacts of all completed and ongoing projects in the property, its buffer zone and wider setting on the attributes of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), to examine planned projects that may have an impact on the property and to assess its overall state of conservation.

With regard to this purpose, the mission shall:

1. Assess the large-scale projects that have been carried out or are underway within the property, its buffer zone and in its wider setting, in terms of their impact on the attributes that convey the OUV of the property.
2. Examine planned projects that may have an impact on the property's OUV.
3. Assess the overall state of conservation of the property and evaluate factors and conservation issues that could potentially impact on its OUV, including its conditions of integrity, protection and management.
4. Make recommendations to the World Heritage Committee, including for strengthening the property's management system and ensuring more effective urban control.

II. Organisation of the Reactive Monitoring mission

The State Party, through its competent authorities, should ensure that the mission is provided with all relevant information and documentation to enable it to review and assess the issues listed in Paragraphs 1-4 above and that the mission is able to carry out on-site visits for a comprehensive inspection of the property. Should additional information be required, as identified during the mission, it should be provided by the State Party no later than two weeks after the end of the mission.

The State Party is requested to facilitate the necessary consultations through working meetings with stakeholders, including government authorities at the national and local levels, the property management authority, and any other relevant stakeholders, NGOs and the local community, and to facilitate field visits to key locations within the property and to viewpoints over the property in the wider setting.

In order to facilitate the preparation of the mission, the State Party should cooperate with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in preparing a detailed mission programme and a list of persons and institutions to be consulted, which should be submitted in draft form to the World Heritage Centre for review as soon as possible no later than 26 August 2024.

The following documents should be provided to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible and no later than 15 days prior to the mission:

- Project documentation on projects either underway or planned but not yet implemented within the property, its buffer zone and in its wider setting.

In accordance with established UNESCO and ICOMOS practice, their experts will not address the media or discuss the findings and recommendations of the mission, which should be presented only in the final report of the mission.

III. Report to be delivered

Following the mission, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS will prepare a concise report in accordance with the terms of reference of the mission for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session. The mission report will follow the report format of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies Reactive Monitoring mission. Prior to finalisation, the report will be transmitted in electronic format to the State Party for verification of any factual errors.

Annex II: Last Decision of the World Heritage Committee

Decision: 46 COM 7B.12

Centennial Hall in Wrocław (Poland)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.194** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the intention of the State Party to finalise the revised management plan for the property by the end of 2024, and as part of this revision process, requests the State Party to:
 - a) Strengthen the management system and related mechanisms to ensure that Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines is systematically implemented,
 - b) Develop mechanisms to integrate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into the management system to ensure that appropriate assessments are carried out in accordance with the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for all projects, irrespective of their scale and nature, on the attributes that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and their capacity to convey it,
 - c) Develop a cumulative HIA for all projects undertaken on the property, its buffer zone and wider setting since its inscription, as a basis for assessing potential negative impacts on the attributes conveying the OUV of the property, and identifying mitigation measures so that they can be integrated into the revised management plan,
 - d) Submit the final draft of the revised management plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its formal adoption;
4. Takes notes of the invitation of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission by the State Party, which is scheduled to take place in the week of 9 September, but regrets that the timeframe proposed by the State Party did not allow the Committee to examine the resulting report at its current session;
5. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre, prior to the Reactive Monitoring mission, with clearer cartographic documentation showing whether and how the route of the Great Island Avenue would encroach upon the Szczytnicki Park and how many trees would need to be felled to widen the road in relation to the boundaries of the park;
6. Finally requests the State Party to submit an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

Annex III: Composition of the mission team

- Irena Caquet, Programme Specialist, Europe and North America Unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO
- Leo Schmidt, ICOMOS Advisor

Annex IV: Programme of the mission as implemented

9 September 2024

Arrival of experts in Wrocław

10 September 2024

9:00-9:15	Welcome speeches <i>President of the Management Board of Wrocławskie Przedsiębiorstwo Hala Ludowa Sp. z o.o.</i> <i>Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Wrocław for the management of the area inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List</i> <i>Deputy Director in the Department of Monuments Protection, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, national Focal Point</i> <i>Working Director of National Institute of Cultural Heritage</i>
9:15-10:00	Presentation of the situation of the World Heritage property (OUV, boundaries, WHC decisions and presentation of the implementation of recommendations received over the years in Technical Reviews) – introduction to the topics of the meeting <i>National Institute of Cultural Heritage</i>
10:00-10:20	Monument protection system in Poland <i>Dolnośląski Regional Conservator of Monuments</i>
10:20-11:10	Local spatial development policies in Wrocław and town's transport system – in particular the new road investment on the Great Island Avenue <i>Director of the Spatial Planning Department, Wrocław City Council</i> <i>Deputy Director of the Spatial Planning Department, Wrocław City Council</i> <i>Director of Sustainable Mobility Office, Wrocław City Council</i> <i>Director of City Engineering Department, Wrocław City Council</i> <i>Deputy Director of Roads and City Maintenance Authority, Wrocław City Council</i>
11:10-11:30	Experts' questions
12:00-12:20	Management of the World Heritage property <i>President of the Management Board of Wrocławskie Przedsiębiorstwo Hala Ludowa Sp. z o.o. as the representative of site managers</i>
12:20-13:30	Undertaken projects and plans for new developments within the boundaries of the World Heritage property and buffer zone <i>Wrocławskie Przedsiębiorstwo Hala Ludowa Sp. z o.o.</i> <i>City Greenery Board</i> <i>Four Domes Pavilion, National Museum in Wrocław</i> <i>Wrocław Feature Film Studio</i> <i>Institute for Power System Automation</i>

13:30-13:45	Experts' questions
14:30-18:00	On-site visit to the WH property and its neighbourhood, part 1 (location of the Eastern Bridge, Great Island Avenue, Szczytnickie Gardens and Szczytnicki Park)
18:00-19:00	Experts' meeting with NGO 'Akcja Park Szczytnicki'

11 September 2024

9:00-11:00	On-site visit to the WH property, part 2 (Exhibition Grounds, Park Szczytnicki, Japanese Gardens, Pergola)
11:30-13:00	On-site visit to the World Heritage property, part 3 (Centennial Hall, Terrace Restaurant Pavilion, Pavilion 'Pod Misiami')
14:00-16:00	On-site visit to the World Heritage property, part 4 (Spire, Colonnade, Four Domes Pavilion, buildings of Wrocław Feature Film Studio and Institute of Automation Systems Engineering)
16:30-18:00	On-site visit to the World Heritage property, part 5 (area along the southern boundary of the WH property, view into the ZOO and the Afrycarium, underground car park)
18:00-19:00	Experts' meeting with the Vice-President of the Polish National Committee ICOMOS

12 September 2024

9:00-11:00	Further clarifications and answers to arising questions <i>Persons invited to attend and give explanations and answers to questions from experts</i>
	Conclusion of the mission
11:00-12:00	Experts' concluding meeting
	Departure of experts

Annex V: List of people met

1. **Jakub Wiśniewski** (Deputy Director, Department of Monuments Protection, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, National Focal Point)
2. **Joanna Matyjasiak** (Department of Monument Protection, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland)
3. **Marlena Happach** (Working Director, National Institute of Cultural Heritage)
4. **Anna Marconi-Betka** (Chief, World Heritage Sites Unit, National Institute of Cultural Heritage)
5. **Grzegorz Grajewski** (Head, Regional Office in Wrocław, National Institute of Cultural Heritage)
6. **Krzysztof Czartoryski** (Regional office in Wrocław, National Institute of Cultural Heritage)
7. **Alicja Jagielska-Burduk** (Secretary General, Polish National Commission for UNESCO)
8. **Aleksandra Fedorowicz-Jackowska** (Polish National Commission for UNESCO)
9. **Katarzyna Pałubska** (Vice-President, ICOMOS Polish National Committee)
10. **Jakub Grudniewski** (President, Management Board of *Wrocławskie Przedsiębiorstwo Hala Ludowa Sp. z o.o.*)
11. **Magdalena Piasecka** (Vice-President, Management Board of *Wrocławskie Przedsiębiorstwo Hala Ludowa Sp. z o.o.*)
12. **Ewa Schubert** (Coordinator of investment and UNESCO, *Wrocławskie Przedsiębiorstwo Hala Ludowa Sp. z o.o.*)
13. **Daniel Czerek** (*Wrocławskie Przedsiębiorstwo Hala Ludowa Sp. z o.o.*)
14. **Jacek Barski** (Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of Wrocław for the management of the area inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List; Director, Department of City Development and Strategy of Wrocław City Council)
15. **Elżbieta Urbanek** (Director, Department of Infrastructure and Transport, Wrocław City Council)
16. **Monika Kozłowska-Święcone** (Director, Sustainable Mobility Office, Wrocław City Council)
17. **Elwira Nowak** (Director, City Engineering Department, Wrocław City Council)
18. **Piotr Bujnowski** (Deputy Director, Roads and City Maintenance Authority, Wrocław City Council)
19. **Magdalena Wankowska** (Director, Department of Architecture and Monuments, Wrocław City Council)
20. **Hanna Kazimierowicz** (Deputy Director, Department of Architecture and Monuments, Wrocław City Council)
21. **Agnieszka Świderek** (Manager, Department of Architecture and Monuments, Wrocław City Council)
22. **Przemysław Matyja** (Director, Spatial Planning Department, Wrocław City Council)
23. **Tomasz Smoliński** (Deputy Director, Spatial Planning Department, Wrocław City Council)
24. **Iwona Dorota Bigos** (Manager, Four Domes Pavilion, National Museum in Wrocław)

25. **Magdalena Dybska** (Four Domes Pavilion, National Museum in Wrocław)
26. **Grzegorz Sulej** (Wrocław Feature Film Studio)
27. **Alicja Musialska** (Coordinator of artistic projects, Wrocław Feature Film Studio)
28. **Magda Szefer** (Wrocław Feature Film Studio)
29. **Ryszard Delinowski** (Patent Attorney, Institute for Power System Automation)
30. **Bernadetta Irzykowska** (Institute for Power System Automation)
31. **Monika Pec-Święcicka** (City Greenery Board)
32. **Ewa Zielińska** (City Greenery Board)
33. **Daniel Gibski** (*Dolnośląski* Regional Conservator of Monuments)
34. **Katarzyna Dziura** (Deputy Director, Regional Office of Monuments Protection in Wrocław)
35. **Przemysław Bąbelewski** (Association '*Akcja Park Szczytnicki*'))
36. **Bogusław Wojtyszyn** (Association '*Akcja Park Szczytnicki*'))
37. **Tomasz Czarski** (Association '*Akcja Park Szczytnicki*'))
38. **Krzysztof Wysoczański** (Association '*Akcja Park Szczytnicki*'))

Annex VI: Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property

Brief synthesis

The Centennial Hall in Wrocław, a milestone in the history of reinforced concrete architecture, was designed by the architect Max Berg and built in 1911-1913. The hall has a symmetrical quatrefoil ground plan with a huge circular central space covered by a ribbed dome topped with a lantern. It can accommodate up to 10,000 people.

The Centennial Hall is an outstanding example of early Modernism and the innovative use of reinforced concrete structures in the building industry. At the time of its construction, it was the largest ever reinforced concrete dome in the world. It played a significant role in the creation of a new technological solution of high aesthetic value, which became an important point of reference in the design of public spaces and in the further evolution of this technology. Drawing on historical forms, the building was a pioneering design responding to emerging social needs, including an assembly hall, an auditorium for theatre performances, an exhibition space and a sports venue. The building is a significant watershed in the history of Modern architecture.

The Exhibition Grounds, whose main feature the Centennial Hall, stands at the intersection of its principal axes, constitutes an integral spatial whole. They were designed jointly by Max Berg and Hans Poelzig. On the west side of the Centennial Hall there is a monumental square modelled on the ancient forum, which is preceded by the colonnade (built in 1925) of the main entrance. To the north of the square stands the Pavilion of the Historical and Artistic Exhibition, now known as the Four Domes Pavilion, which was built in 1912-1913 according to a design by Hans Poelzig. In the northern part of the Exhibition Grounds stands a concrete pergola enclosing a pond. It is separated from the Centennial Hall by a building housing a restaurant with an open terrace.

The design of the Exhibition Grounds combined new elements with the southern part of the 19th-century Szczytnicki Park, which was used as the setting for thematic garden exhibitions, such as the Japanese Garden, as well as for the temporary Exhibition of Cemetery Art, an extant reminder of which is an 18th-century wooden church relocated from Upper Silesia in 1912.

Criterion (i): The Centennial Hall in Wrocław is a creative and innovative example in the development of construction technology in large reinforced concrete structures. The Centennial Hall occupies a key position in the evolution of methods of reinforcement used in architecture, and represents one of the climactic points in the history of the use of metal in structural consolidation.

Criterion (ii): The Centennial Hall is a pioneering work of Modern engineering and architecture, which exhibits an important interchange of influences in the early 20th century, becoming a key reference in the later development of reinforced concrete structures.

Criterion (iv): As part of the Exhibition Grounds of Wrocław, the Centennial Hall is an outstanding example of Modern recreational architecture that served a variety of purposes, ranging from hosting conferences and exhibitions to concerts, theatre and opera.

Integrity

The Exhibition Grounds, together with the Centennial Hall, have retained their compositional integrity within the boundary of the property. As a whole, they have retained their structural

integrity and views on the property. Also, the use of the grounds is compatible with the originally intended functions.

Since the time of its construction, the Hall has remained a fully complete and unique facility in terms of structure and materials used. The building has undergone a series of renovations in order to maintain its structural condition and to replace installations in accordance with obligatory safety standards for public use buildings.

The property's boundaries include the entire extant central part of the Exhibition Grounds. After the end of the Centennial Exhibition in 1913, temporary architectural features and seasonal garden plantings were removed. Some permanent structures, such as the roof of the colonnade of the main entrance and the restaurant building with its open terrace, were destroyed during the Second World War.

Despite some losses, the most important features situated on the two main axes of the Exhibition Grounds survive to this day: the Centennial Hall, the Four Domes Pavilion, the colonnade of the main entrance and the pergola with its pond. The Japanese Garden and the wooden Baroque church are also extant.

In 1948, the composition of the Exhibition Grounds was supplemented with a steel spire designed by Stanisław Hempel, which was placed in the middle of the 'forum'.

All investment plans in the property and its buffer zone need to be assessed carefully to avoid adverse impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value.

Authenticity

The Centennial Hall and Exhibition Grounds within the boundaries of the inscription have retained their unique cohesive spatial layout and permanent compositional features. The Centennial Hall is a fully authentic building in terms of architectural form, specific construction technology and materials. The building is in good condition following the completion of renovation work addressing its conservation as well as functional and technical modernisation. The structural condition of other features within the exhibition complex is varied, as is the state of preservation of their historic fabric. The property is used in accordance with its original intended functions.

Protection and management requirements

The entire property (36.69 ha) is legally protected under regulations governing the protection of monuments, which are implemented by national and local conservation services.

The system of legal protection pertaining to the property has been supplemented by the perennial efforts of the local self-government, which have led to the entire area within the buffer zone (189,68 ha) being covered by local spatial development plans protecting the property at the level of by-laws in accordance with the provisions of the spatial planning and development act.

All conservation and investment works are preceded by pertinent historical studies and research as well as environmental analyses, taking into consideration the spatial context. Each operation requires that the proposed work be approved and relevant permission be obtained from conservation services.

Responsibility for the property is shared by several legal entities with various profiles of activity, hence individual buildings and spaces are used for different functions. The main part of the Centennial Hall complex serves as an exhibition and conference centre and as a widely accessible recreational area, in keeping with its original intended purpose.

All investment plans in the property and its buffer zone must be subordinate to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value, and the preservation of its character and historical spatial context.

Fulfilment of this objective will be through the implementation of a Management Plan for the area inscribed on the World Heritage List. The aim of this document is to coordinate activities related to the management and monitoring of the Centennial Hall complex and its buffer zone. The plan will ensure the sustainable use and functioning of the entire complex, taking into account social, environmental and economic issues, as well as the full use of its tourism potential and the landscape values of the property and its surroundings.