

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

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

Forty-seventh session UNESCO, Paris 6 – 16 July 2025

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/47COM/documents

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

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.

TABLE OF CONTENT

NATURAL	- PROPERTIES	3
ASIA	-PACIFIC	3
1.	Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia)	3
2.	East Rennell (Solomon Islands)	
EUR	OPE AND NORTH AMERICA	4
3.	Everglades National Park (United States of America)	4
LATI	N AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	
4.	Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)	5
5.	Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico)	
AFRI	СА	
6.	Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic)	6
7.	Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea)	
8.	General Decision on the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of Congo.	
9.	Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	
10.	Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	
11.	Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	
12.	Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)	
13.	Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya)	
14.	Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar)	
15.	Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)	
16.	Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania)	
	AL PROPERTIES	
17.	Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan)	
18.	Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States	
19.		
20.	Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan)	26
EUR	OPE AND NORTH AMERICA	31
21.	Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria)	31
22.	Roșia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania	
23.	Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia)	
24.	Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk L (Ukraine)	
25.	L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine)	36
26.	The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine)	36
LATI	N AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	37
27.	City of Potosi (Bolivia, Plurinational State of)	37
28.	Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama)	37
29.	Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)	37
30.	Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of)	37

AFRICA		38	
31.	Old Towns of Djenné (Mali)	38	
32.	Timbuktu (Mali)	38	
33.	Tomb of Askia (Mali)	38	
ARAB	ARAB STATES		
34.	Abu Mena (Egypt)	39	
35.	Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq)	39	
36.	Hatra (Iraq)	42	
37.	Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq)	46	
38.	Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)	50	
39.	Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon)	50	
40.	Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya)	54	
41.	Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya)	54	
42.	Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya)	54	
43.	Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya)	54	
44.	Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya)	54	
45.	Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine)	56	
46.	Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, E (State of Palestine)		
47.	Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer (State of Palestine)	57	
48.	Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic)	57	
49.	Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic)	60	
50.	Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)	60	
51.	Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic)	61	
52.	Crac des chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic)	64	
53.	Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic)	67	
54.	Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)	67	
55.	Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen)	67	
56.	Old City of Sana'a (Yemen)	67	
57.	Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen)	67	

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

1. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

2. East Rennell (Solomon Islands)

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

3. Everglades National Park (United States of America)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

4. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

5. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico)

AFRICA

6. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

7. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

<u>Criteria</u> (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

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

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: 24 (from 1981-2024) Total amount approved: USD 599,870 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 <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/830/</u>), USD 31,214 from the Government of China Funds for Capacity Building and cooperation for World Heritage in Africa (<u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/280/?id=1058&&&</u>)

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 (issue resolved)
- 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 29 January 2025, the States Parties of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea submitted a joint state of conservation report, which is available at <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/155/documents/</u>. The report details the following:

- The implementation of the corrective measures, including surveillance, ecological monitoring, support to neighbouring populations, transboundary activities and development measures, is continuing with the support of several partners, including the European Union, the World Bank, the World Heritage Fund, etc.;
- The Development and Management Plans (PAG) for the Ivorian and Guinean components have now been approved and are being implemented. Bilateral consultations are underway to develop the Joint Master Plan (*Plan directeur conjoint*) in 2025;
- A harmonised ecological monitoring protocol has been established at the property level. Data on the chimpanzees and the viviparous toads are available, while studies are underway for the *Micropotamogale lamottei*;
- In 2025, Côte d'Ivoire plans to materialise and delineate the peripheral zone of its component, in accordance with Law No. 2002-102 of 11 February 2002, and to develop a land use map;
- The activities of the mining companies involved in exploration in the Nimba landscape are supervised by the Guinean Environmental Assessment Agency (*Agence Guinéeene d'Évaluations Environnementales*), and independently reviewed by the Dutch Environmental Assessment Commission;
- The mining development map of the Mounts Nimba in Guinea is to be updated to exclude abandoned or non-existent projects;
- The two States Parties wish to invite a joint Reactive Monitoring mission in July 2025 to assess the state of conservation of the property;
- Information on the implementation of the indicators of the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2024 has been annexed to the report.

On 7 February 2025, the State Party of Guinea submitted the Environmental and Social Scoping Report and the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Nimba Iron Ore mining project by the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG). The World Heritage Centre has also been informed of the purchase by Equatorial Resources Limited of the permits held by Nimba Alliance, including Nimba North, and particularly Nimba West, which overlaps the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The States Parties have made progress in implementing the corrective measures, in particular regarding joint transboundary surveillance patrols, mobilising funding, ecological monitoring and supporting neighbouring populations. It is recommended that these measures continue to be fully implemented in order to improve the conservation status of the property in a sustainable manner.

The approval of the individual PAGs for the Ivorian (in 2022) and Guinean (in 2024) components is a big step forward. Recalling that none of these plans had been submitted, the ongoing development of an Integrated Master Plan (PDI) for the entire property is noted. It is recommended that these plans be submitted for review by IUCN prior to the finalisation of the PDI, as a priority for structuring a common approach and optimising the management of the property.

The establishment of a harmonised ecological monitoring protocol is a significant step forward in monitoring the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) key species and their habitats. The availability of

data on the chimpanzee and the viviparous toad for the entire property is encouraging. Noting the lack of consolidated data on the *Micropotamogale lamottei*, the studies funded in 2024 to fill this gap are welcomed because of its ecological importance, and it is essential to accelerate these studies and ensure long-term monitoring for this species. A centralised database, enhanced coordination and sustainable funding will be necessary to ensure comprehensive ecological monitoring.

The materialisation and delineation of the peripheral zone of the Ivorian component, in accordance with Law No. 2002-102, and the preparation of a land use map are noted. However, given the specificities related to the preservation of the OUV, it is recommended that the State Party be requested to officially designate the forests in the vicinity of the property as a buffer zone, following the procedure for minor boundary modifications in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.

Concerning the mining projects in Guinea, it is regrettable that no information has been provided on the strategic assessment planned by the World Bank. Furthermore, the IUCN assessment of the ToR and of the Scoping Study Report for the ESIA for Phase 1 of the SMFG Project reveals that these documents do not cover all phases of the project, nor the specific and cumulative potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, as previously requested (Decision **45 COM 7A.4**). Recalling the SMFG commitment to carry out a comprehensive ESIA of the project in accordance with international standards, and to submit it to an independent technical review (Decision **44 COM 7A.40**), it is recommended that the ToR and the Scoping Report be revised to include the project in its entirety and the potential cumulative and specific impacts on the attributes of the OUV at each phase of its life cycle, including construction, operation, closure and restoration.

Furthermore, it is noted that Zali Mining has been acquired by Nimba Development Company. In addition, Equatorial Resources Limited has acquired the Nimba North and West permits from Nimba Alliance. This transaction raises major concerns regarding the threats posed by this project to the integrity of the property, especially since the Nimba West permit covers a significant part of the Guinean component of the property. It is recommended that an update be provided on the progress of these projects and to reiterate that no environmental compliance certificates or mining permits should be issued for the projects/companies until their overall cumulative impacts on the OUV have been assessed in ESIAs compliant with the above-mentioned Guidance, and these ESIAs have been submitted to IUCN for review.

Progress made in 2024 towards achieving the indicators of the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) is noted. It is recommended that the States Parties be encouraged to continue their efforts and include sources of verification (as indicated in the approved DSOCR) in the next report to facilitate their analysis and inform the relevance of organising a joint Reactive Monitoring mission in 2026.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.7

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- <u>Recalling</u> Decisions 43 COM 7A.6, 44 COM 7A.40, 45 COM 7A.4 and 46 COM 7A.45, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Noting</u> the progress made in implementing some corrective measures, including joint transboundary surveillance patrols, mobilising funding, ecological monitoring and supporting neighbouring populations, <u>encourages</u> the States Parties to continue the full implementation of these measures to ensure the continued improvement of the state of conservation of the property and <u>thanks</u> the donors supporting the conservation of the property and <u>thanks</u> the donors supporting the conservation of the World Heritage Fund;

- 4. <u>Welcomes</u> the validation of the individual Management and Development Plans (PAGs) for the Ivorian (in 2022) and Guinean (in 2024) components, <u>notes with appreciation</u> the progress being made in the development of the Integrated Master Plan at the property level, and <u>requests</u> the States Parties to submit the two individual PAGs to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to the finalisation of the Integrated Master Plan, which should also be reviewed by IUCN prior to its final validation;
- 5. <u>Also welcomes</u> the establishment of a harmonised ecological monitoring protocol at the property level and the availability of data on certain Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) key species, <u>takes note of</u> the studies funded in 2024 to fill the knowledge gap on the Micropotamogale lamottei, and <u>also encourages</u> the States Parties to establish a long-term monitoring mechanism and to centralise data in a common database accessible to all partners;
- 6. <u>Notes</u> the planned materialisation and delineation of the peripheral zone of the Ivorian component of the property, in accordance with Law No. 2002-102, and the forthcoming preparation of a land use map, and <u>urges</u> the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to officially designate the forests in the vicinity of the property as a buffer zone under the World Heritage Convention, following the procedure for minor boundary modifications in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;
- 7. <u>Also notes</u> the IUCN assessment of the Terms of Reference (ToR) and of the Scoping Study Report for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Phase 1 of the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG) project, <u>expresses its concern</u> that these documents do not cover all phases of the project and are limited to assessing impacts on biodiversity in general, without considering the specific and cumulative potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
- 8. <u>Recalls</u> the SMFG commitment to carry out an ESIA for the project in accordance with international standards and to submit it to an independent technical review, as stipulated in Decision **44 COM 7A.40**, <u>requests</u> that the ToR and the Scoping Report be revised to incorporate the project in its entirety, including all phases of its life cycle (construction, operation, closure and restoration), and to comprehensively assess the specific and cumulative potential impacts on the OUV of the property, and that the revised documents be submitted to IUCN for review prior to any approval;
- 9. <u>Noting</u> that Zali Mining and Nimba Alliance have been acquired by Nimba Development Company (NDC) and Equatorial Resources Limited (ERL) respectively, <u>expresses its</u> <u>deep concern</u> that the Nimba West permit acquired by ERL covers a significant part of the Guinean component of the property, <u>also requests</u> that the State Party of Guinea provide detailed information on the status of these projects, and <u>reiterates its request</u> to the State Party of Guinea that no environmental compliance certificates or mining permits be issued for projects/companies around the property until their cumulative impacts on the OUV in their entirety have been subject to ESIAs compliant with the above-mentioned Guidance, and that these ESIAs be submitted to IUCN for review;
- 10. <u>Regrets</u> the lack of additional information concerning the World Bank planned strategic assessment of all mining projects in Guinea in relation to the OUV of the property and <u>reiterates once again its request</u> to the State Party of Guinea not to grant any new mining exploration or exploitation 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 to the World Heritage Centre and for review by IUCN;

- 11. <u>Also takes note of</u> the progress made in 2024 towards achieving the indicators of the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), <u>further encourages</u> the States Parties to continue their efforts and to include sources for verification of these indicators (as specified in the approved DSOCR) in the next state of conservation report to facilitate analysis of the information and better inform the relevance of organising a possible joint Reactive Monitoring mission in 2026;
- 12. <u>Finally requests</u> the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 13. <u>Decides</u> to maintain 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 8 below.

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

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

9. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

<u>Criteria</u> (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

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

<u>Corrective measures identified</u> Adopted in 2010, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4082</u> Revised in 2016, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/6652</u>

<u>Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures</u> 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

On 30 January 2025, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/136/documents/, and informing that:

- The implementation of corrective measures, as updated by the 2016 mission, is ongoing;
- A new nomination of the property, incorporating the responses to the World Heritage Centre's comments in 2023 and 2024, was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2025;
- Kordofan's elephant and giraffe populations are both growing at annual rates of over 10%. An aerial survey is also planned for 2025 to confirm these trends;
- Poaching of key species decreased significantly between 2017 and 2024, with four elephant carcasses detected compared to 91 in 2016 and 50 in 2017;
- No giraffe carcasses showing signs of poaching have been found in the property since 2017, and a giraffe conservation action plan is attached to the report;
- The quantity of bushmeat seized each year remained between 454 and 100 kg between 2020 and 2024;
- Incursions by poachers and numerous transhumant herders are still frequent, particularly in the northern part of the property;
- In 2024, a judicial follow-up led to seven convictions and one acquittal;
- The reports of the risk assessments linked to the introduction of the southern white rhino, carried
 out in 2018 and 2021, are appended to the conservation status report. A long-term management
 strategy for the risks associated with this introduction has been implemented in accordance with
 the advice of the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission
 (AfrRSG SSC);
- Despite the progress made in 2023 and 2024, the finalisation of the Land Use Plan continues to be hampered by illegal gold panning, affecting two of the three Hunting Areas;
- The strategy of relocating gold panning activities to legal Artisanal Mining Zones (ZEAs) is being implemented despite major difficulties;
- The file for the creation of ZEAs outside the boundaries of the property has been awaiting signature by the Ministry of Mines since 2023;

- Cross-border cooperation with South Sudan has increased since 2021, despite tentative progress towards a Memorandum of Understanding;
- High-level technical support is planned for 2025 by African Parks for the ENJOJO Foundation, co-manager of the Lantoto National Park, to improve its management;
- The property manager is willing to host the joint reactive monitoring mission;
- Information on progress towards achieving the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as proposed by the 2016 mission, has been appended to the report.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts made by the State Party and its partners to implement the majority of the corrective measures to improve the management of the property, in particular the strengthening of surveillance efforts, ecological monitoring, transboundary cooperation, support for riparian communities and the adoption of the 2025-2029 Business plan, are encouraging and must be continued.

Noting the positive trends in the Kordofan elephant and giraffe populations, although still far from those recorded at the time the property was listed, as well as the significant reduction in poaching, it is encouraging that the State Party is planning an aerial survey in 2025 to confirm these dynamics. However, given the increase in incursions by poachers and transhumant herders, particularly in the northern part of the property, it is recommended that surveillance patrols be stepped up, that monitoring methodologies be used to collect data that can be compared over time and that the results of the inventory planned for 2025, once completed, be shared with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

With regard to the Giraffe Conservation Action Plan 2020-2024, it is also recommended that the State Party carry out a technical assessment of its implementation and make relevant arrangements for its updating, including taking advice from the IUCN Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group, if necessary.

The efforts made to introduce the southern white rhino into the property to replace the northern white rhino, including the risk assessment carried out in 2018 and 2021, the first translocation of 16 individuals in 2023 and the implementation of a long-term management strategy for the associated risks, are noted. However, in 2022, AfrRSG highlighted in its comments several potential areas for improvement that could reduce the technical risks in the feasibility assessment. Recalling that the feasibility study incorporating these comments and the risk management strategy were not attached to the state of conservation report, it is recommended that the State Party also submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN and to ensure that future translocations are carried out on the basis of the AfrRSG's formal technical advice and in accordance with IUCN's Guidelines for in situ reintroduction and translocation of African and Asian rhinos.

Concerning the fight against illegal gold panning, the constraints linked to the relocation of existing artisanal mining sites within the property and in the hunting areas, in particular the slowness observed in the validation of the ZEAs by the Ministry of Mines, as well as the limited progress in finalising the Land Use Plan (LUP), remain of particular concern. It is recommended once again that the finalisation of the LUP and the creation of the ZEAs be accelerated in order to reduce the impact of illegal mining on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

Noting that cross-border cooperation with South Sudan has intensified since 2021 and that technical support is planned in 2025 by African Parks for the ENJOJO Foundation, these initiatives are encouraging and should be formalised by a duly drawn up Memorandum of Understanding. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the two States Parties (Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan) to speed up the drafting and signing of this Memorandum and to strengthen joint initiatives, such as patrols and data exchanges, in order to ensure the effectiveness of this cooperation.

Information on the progress towards achieving the DSOCR indicators, as proposed by the 2016 mission, is noted. However, as the final version of the document has not been validated by the Committee and in the absence of sources of verification, it is recommended that the data from the inventory planned for 2025 be used to guide conservation strategies, including the finalisation of the DSOCR indicators, before any approval by the Committee. The new nomination of the property to the World Heritage List submitted by the State Party in January 2025 is also noted. This will be followed by an evaluation process, including a field evaluation mission led by IUCN before November 2025, to examine the state of conservation of

the property (in relation to the new criteria and attributes presented), the challenges it faces and to make recommendations to the State Party and to the World Heritage Committee. As far as possible, the evaluation process for the new nomination should take into account current conservation issues, in order to adopt a harmonised and up-to-date approach to the preservation of the OUV of the property.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.9

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **45 COM 7A.5** and **46 COM 7A.47** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Welcomes positively</u> the efforts made by the State Party and its partners to implement the majority of the corrective measures, notably in the areas of surveillance, ecological monitoring, transboundary cooperation and support for riparian communities, as well as the adoption of the 2025-2029 Business Plan, and <u>encourages</u> the continuation of these initiatives in order to ensure the effective management of the property;
- 4. <u>Commends</u> the positive trends observed in the populations of Kordofan's elephants and giraffes, although still below the levels recorded at the time of inscription of the property, as well as the reduction in poaching, <u>requests</u> the State Party to strengthen surveillance patrols in view of the increase in incursions by poachers and transhumant herders, particularly in the northern part of the property;
- 5. <u>Takes note</u> of the aerial survey planned for 2025 to confirm trends of key species in the property and <u>also requests</u> the State Party to ensure that the monitoring methodologies allow for the collection of comparable data over time, and to share the results of the inventory, once completed, with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
- 6. <u>Taking note of</u> the Giraffe Conservation Action Plan 2020-2024, <u>also encourages</u> the State Party to undertake a technical assessment of its implementation and to take the necessary steps to update it, in consultation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group, if necessary;
- 7. <u>Reiterating once again its utmost concern</u> about the likely extinction of the northern white rhino subspecies within the property due to the lack of evidence of its presence since 2008, <u>also takes note of</u> the transfer of a first group of 16 specimens of the southern white rhino subspecies in June 2023, and the submission of risk assessment reports carried out in 2018 and 2021;
- 8. <u>Notes with concern</u> the absence of an updated feasibility study incorporating the comments of the 2022 IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission (AfrRSG SSC), as well as the risk management strategy referred to in the state of conservation report, and <u>further requests</u> the State Party to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, and to ensure that future translocations of species are carried out on the basis of the AfrRSG's formal technical advice and in accordance with IUCN's Guidelines for in situ reintroduction and translocation of African and Asian rhinoceroses;
- 9. <u>Expresses its concern</u> about the constraints related to the relocation of artisanal mining sites and the slow progress in validating the Artisanal Mining Zones (ZEA), as well as the limited progress in finalising the Land Use Plan (LUP), and <u>urges</u> the State Party to

accelerate these processes in order to reduce as soon as possible the impact of illegal mining on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

- 10. <u>Notes with satisfaction</u> the strengthening of cross-border cooperation with South Sudan and the technical support planned in 2025 by African Parks for the ENJOJO Foundation, and <u>reiterates its request</u> to the two States Parties (Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan) to speed up the drafting and signing of a formal memorandum of understanding and to strengthen joint initiatives, such as patrols and data exchanges, to ensure the effectiveness of this cooperation;
- 11. <u>Notes</u> the information on the progress towards achieving the indicators of the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) proposed by the 2016 mission, <u>regrets</u> that the sources of verifications have not been included and <u>further encourages</u> the State Party to continue its efforts and to use the data from the inventory planned for 2025 to finalise the DSOCR indicators, including the necessary sources of verifications of progress, before possible approval by the Committee;
- 12. <u>Also notes</u> the new nomination of the property for listing on the World Heritage List submitted by the State Party in January 2025, <u>stresses</u> that an IUCN evaluation mission will visit the property before November 2025 to examine its state of conservation (in relation to the new criteria and attributes presented), the challenges it faces and to make recommendations to the State Party and the World Heritage Committee;
- 13. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 14. <u>Decides</u> to maintain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

10. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

11. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

12. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

13. Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

14. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

15. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

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

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

<u>Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Adopted, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8522/</u>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, and updated by the 2015 IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In progress

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1999-2019) Total amount approved: USD 202,316 For details, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/assistance/</u>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

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

Previous monitoring missions

May 2005 and February 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Political instability and civil strife
- Management constraints (lack of human and logistical means)
- Ostrich poaching and other species
- Soil erosion
- Demographic pressure
- Livestock pressure
- Pressure on forestry resources

- Gold panning
- Illegal activities (increase in poaching threats and timber harvesting)
- Proliferation of the invasive exotic species (Prosopis juliflora)
- Insecurity

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

Current conservation issues

On 13 February 2025, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/573/documents</u>, reporting the following:

- The implementation of corrective measures continued with anti-poaching missions (LAB), ecological monitoring, land restoration and awareness-raising in local communities, thanks to funding from the State Party and partners such as UNESCO, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and Sahara Conservation (SC);
- The implementation of the Development and Management Plan (PAG) and the emergency plan is continuing with a view to achieving the desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
- The project carried out by SC, funded by the IUCN, has made it possible to recruit and train property agents in the SMART tool, organise surveillance patrols and collect data via camera traps (around 367,759 photos, including 506 photos of dama gazelle);
- In 2024, the patrols recorded zero cases of poaching, as they have since 2022, cleared seven illegal gold-panning sites and recorded two cases of illegal logging;
- Ecological monitoring has made it possible to document the evolution of species characteristic of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in particular the cuffed mouflon, the Saharan cheetah and the spotted and striped hyena. A record 18 dama gazelles were observed in November 2024;
- Workshops were held on the strategy and the Action plan for the conservation of red-necked ostriches and the dama gazelle. A 2023-2032 roadmap for the conservation of the dama gazelle has been drawn up;
- The fight against invasive alien species (IAS) continued with local communities, through the clearing and carbonization of 750 ha of *Prosopis juliflora*, and the restoration of 150 ha of degraded land;
- To date, no mining licence has been granted on the south-eastern boundary of the property. In accordance with Article 7 of National Law 2018-28, any mining title granted will be subject to an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), on pain of nullity;
- The Mont Egalagh Communal Nature Reserve (RNC/ME) is in the process of being created;
- The lack of financial resources and the limited technical capacity of the Protected Area Management Unit remain a cause for concern.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Despite a difficult security situation and limited resources, the State Party, in collaboration with its technical and financial partners (TFPs), has made progress in implementing certain corrective measures to improve the management of the property. However, these efforts still have a limited impact on wildlife, ecosystem regeneration and the perception of local communities. It is recommended that these efforts be consolidated by defining clear performance indicators to better measure their effectiveness.

The implementation of the PAG 2022-2024 and the emergency plan represents a structured step forward that can contribute to achieving the DSOCR. However, the monitoring, evaluation and funding arrangements need to be clarified. The expiration of the PAG in 2024 requires it to be updated as a matter of urgency, as requested in the DSOCR, along with a strengthening of monitoring and evaluation and adequate funding.

The training of agents in the SMART tool represents an important lever for strengthening surveillance, but its operational use needs to be strengthened with ongoing technical support and better integration of the data collected into an adaptive decision-making system. The absence of reported poaching since 2022 and the dismantling of several illegal gold-mining sites are encouraging. Nevertheless, it is

essential to extend the spatial coverage of patrols, to involve local communities more closely in the feedback process, and to document progress regularly.

The observation of certain emblematic species such as the dama gazelle, the red-necked ostrich or the cuffed mouflon bear witness to a certain ecological resilience. However, the lack of a standardised monitoring protocol limits the scientific significance of this data. It is recommended that a rigorous ecological monitoring methodology be developed, as indicated in the DSOCR, covering all the characteristic species of the OUV, as well as a systematic analysis protocol to generate reliable indicators on wildlife and human pressure.

The strategy and action plan for the conservation of red-necked ostriches and dama gazelles, as well as the 2023-2032 roadmap, are positive initiatives. However, their effectiveness will depend on the resources available to ensure their implementation and monitoring. It is recommended that the necessary resources be allocated and that the specialist groups of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) be approached to ensure that these documents become operational through functional coordination.

Positive efforts have been made to combat IAS by clearing and carbonising *Prosopis juliflora* and restoring degraded land. Noting that these efforts have actively involved empowered communities through their local management, supervision and monitoring structures, and that work management committees have been set up with strengthened capacities, and that the conditions for the return of endogenous species have been created. However, in the absence of information on the strategy adopted, as previously requested, these actions, although relevant, require rigorous monitoring in order to assess their ecological impact. It is recommended that these efforts be accompanied by monitoring the regeneration of the native flora and continued collaboration with the communities to oversee and maintain the restored areas.

The current absence of mining permits on the south-eastern edge of the property is reassuring, but the risk of future allocation remains. It is essential to protect the property in the long term from any mining activity within its perimeter and buffer zone, in line with the Committee's position that gas, oil and mining exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, a policy supported by commitments made by leaders in these industries not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties. It is recommended that the impacts of any mining project on the OUV be assessed through ESIAs in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, and that these ESIAs be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to any decision being taken.

The persistent weakness of the management unit's financial resources and technical capacity remains a major constraint to the sustainability of conservation efforts, limiting the effective implementation of corrective measures and compromising the gains made and the achievement of the DSCOR within the timeframe set. It is recommended that this unit be provided with permanent human and financial resources, and that the TFPs be mobilised to a greater extent around a strategic capacity-building plan.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.15

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision **45 COM 7A.12** and **46 COM 7A.53** adopted respectively at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the progress made by the State Party, in collaboration with its technical and financial partners (TFPs), despite a difficult security situation and limited resources, in particular in the implementation of certain corrective measures, the development of strategic planning tools, and the implementation of the emergency plan and the 2022-2024 Development and Management Plan (PAG);

- 4. <u>Noting</u> the expiry of the PAG in 2024, <u>encourages</u> the State Party to immediately launch the process of its revision as requested in the desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), by setting up a working group to evaluate the old plan, carry out an updated diagnosis, and draw up a new plan to ensure the continuity of the management of the property, and to specify clear arrangements for its monitoring-evaluation and funding, including for the emergency plan;
- 5. <u>Also encourages</u> the State Party to continue capacity-building for ecoguards and their ongoing technical support, particularly in the operational use of the SMART tool, and to integrate the data collected into an adaptive, results-based management system;
- 6. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the continuing absence of cases of poaching since 2022 and the dismantling of several illegal gold-panning sites, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to extend the spatial coverage of patrols and to involve local communities more closely in reporting information;
- 7. <u>Expresses concern</u>, however, about the persistence of illegal gold panning and illegal logging in the property, and <u>reiterates once again its request</u> to the State Party to provide updated maps showing the location of the main threats identified, notably illegal gold panning and illegal logging in the property, as well as information on their severity and extent, and on the actions taken to combat them;
- 8. <u>Notes with satisfaction</u> the observation of certain emblematic species showing ecological resilience, <u>expresses its concern</u> that the situation of certain species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains of great concern, and <u>also requests</u> the State Party to develop a rigorous ecological monitoring protocol, as indicated in the DSOCR, covering the key species of OUV, as well as a protocol for the systematic analysis of data to generate reliable indicators on fauna and human pressure;
- 9. <u>Notes</u> the availability of a strategy and action plan for the conservation of red-necked ostriches and dama gazelles, as well as the 2023-2032 roadmap for the conservation of the dama gazelle, and <u>further requests</u> for their operationalization to be supported by adequate funding, effective implementation and monitoring mechanisms, and strengthened coordination with the specialist groups of IUCN's Species Survival Commission;
- 10. <u>While regretting</u> the absence of a strategy to combat invasive alien species (IAS) in the property, <u>notes positively</u> the efforts made by the State Party, in collaboration with local communities, to combat IAS through the clearing and carbonization of Prosopis juliflora, as well as the restoration of degraded land, and <u>requests furthermore</u> that these efforts be accompanied by monitoring of the regeneration of native flora, in ongoing collaboration with local communities to monitor and maintain restored areas;
- 11. <u>Also notes</u> the current absence of mining permits in the south-eastern boundary of the property, although the risk of future allocation remains, and <u>urges</u> the State Party:
 - a) to avoid all mining activity within its perimeter and buffer zone, in line with the Committee's position that gas, oil and mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status,
 - b) systematically assess the impacts of any mining project on OUV through Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decision is taken;

- 12. <u>Expresses its deep concern</u> about the limited human and financial capacities of the management unit for the property, <u>further encourages</u> the State Party to strengthen the technical, human and financial resources of this unit on a sustainable basis and <u>reiterates its appeal</u> to the international community and TFPs to provide greater support for the State Party's efforts to ensure sustainable funding for the successful implementation of corrective measures and the achievement of the DSOCR;
- 13. <u>Finally Requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including the progress made towards the achievement of the DSOCR indicators, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 14. <u>Decides</u> to maintain Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

16. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania)

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

17. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

18. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

19. Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of))

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

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

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

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

- Management system/Management Plan
- Management activities (Overgrowth of vegetation, Stonework collapse)
- Storms (Effects of storm surge)
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition

<u>Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Drafted; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

<u>Corrective measures identified</u> Identified; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures Established; proposed for adoption in the draft Decision below

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/documents/

International Assistance Requests approved: 1 (from 2017 to 2019) Total amount approved: USD 30,000 For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 120,000 for the preparation of a nomination file and the management plan for Nan Madol from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust; USD 26,232 for technical support to Nan

Madol, Micronesia (List of World Heritage in Danger) from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust. World Heritage Fund's budget line related to sites in danger to support the elaboration of the DSOCR of Nan Madol (5,880 Euros).

Previous monitoring missions

January 2018: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (legislation LB392 not yet passed and implemented)
- Management systems/Management Plan (management system not extended enough; lack of a risk preparedness strategy as well as of a comprehensive tourism strategy into the management plan)
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition (need to remove silt from the waterways without jeopardizing possible cultural layers on the sea floor)
- Financial resources, Human resources (Appointing and establishing a long-term commitment to the post of 'Property Manager')
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Proposed tourism resort on Nahnningi Island, within the buffer zone of the property)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2025, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1503/documents/. Progress in a number of conservation issues is presented in this report, as follows:

- The "2020 Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of Nan Madol World Heritage Site" (Site Management Plan) and the Sustainable Tourism Plan were completed by the Cultural Site Resource and Management (CSRM) Foundation in 2020, but the requested edits and the COVID-19 pandemic have caused delays. These plans have been discussed with the Nahnmwarki of Madolenihmw and are under review by the Pohnpei State Governor, who must adopt them;
- The Master Plan for Sustainable Conservation includes "Tree and Vegetation Management Review and Recommendations" report funded by the United States Forest Service (USFS);
- Vegetation management and mangrove clearance from the main canals continue and are overseen by the Pohnpei State Government with work carried out by Madolenihmw Municipality, the Pohnpei Tourism Authority, and the Pohnpei State Historic Preservation Office (HPO), and funded by the Pohnpei State Government and USFS. The HPO and municipal workers are responsible for cleaning five target islets identified in the Sustainable Tourism Plan. Vegetation management has continued, despite some delays with funding;
- Pohnpei State Code identifies the Pohnpei State HPO as the manager of Nan Madol; however, a position description for a Site/Property Manager is yet to be written and an appointment to be made;
- Proposed legislation LB392 underwent legal review by Pohnpei State Government, which determined that it conflicts with Pohnpei State historic preservation laws under Pohnpei State Code, owing to the existence of a board at the Pohnpei State HPO. However, Pohnpei State historic preservation laws under Pohnpei State Code have provided protection for the property since 2012;
- A procedure for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, has been prepared and a draft HIA report has been prepared for the tourism resort on Nahnhing;
- A proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their completion, have been developed in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 21 March 2025.

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

Progress continues with actions directed at improving management of the property and protection of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Ongoing removal of intrusive and threatening vegetation is welcome as is the update provided on the process for adoption and implementation of the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation, and the Sustainable Tourism Plan. The "Tree and Vegetation Management Review" will assist in addressing key challenges. The new HIA process, which conforms with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, will support decision-making, and the Committee may wish to remind the State Party of the requirement to submit detailed information on any proposed and ongoing projects, including significant conservation programmes, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to the approval and/or implementation of any project in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The draft HIA prepared for the tourism resort on Nahnhingi Island, within the buffer zone of the property, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before construction resumes, and the Committee may also wish to seek confirmation that the work on this project has ceased, as previously requested. The Committee may also wish to remind the State Party that priority should be afforded to the opening, resourcing and operation of the newly-constructed Visitor Centre.

The update regarding the appointment of a Site/Property Manager is noted, but the Committee may wish to remind the State Party of the need for a long-term commitment to this position. The advice regarding legislation LB392 being unable to proceed is unexpected. While the protection provided to the property by Pohnpei State historic preservation laws under Pohnpei State Code is noted, further enhanced legal protection, including establishment of the Nan Madol Trust or other appropriate management arrangements, is required, consistent with the commitments of the State Party at the time of the inscription of the property. The required protection and management may be achieved through review and revision to the Pohnpei State Code.

In response to the Committee's request to instigate 'remote' preparation of a proposed DSOCR, the State Party has worked in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, meeting online on multiple occasions between November 2024 and January 2025. The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS have continued to provide technical inputs and dialogue through email. The state of conservation of the property was reviewed, matters identified by the Committee and progress recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission were considered and evaluated, and a proposed DSOCR, the related corrective measures (including both those already completed and those yet to be completed) and a timeframe for implementation have been developed, and were submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 21 March 2025. As part of this process, consultation has occurred with the Federated States of Micronesia Government (Office of National Archives, Culture, and Historic Preservation), Pohnpei State Government (Land and Natural Resources, HPO), and the Nahnwmarki of Madolenihmw, and community members in the Madolenihmw Municipality. The comprehensive 'DSOCR Report' prepared through this process can be found with the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party. The commitment and work undertaken by the State Party through its national and local authorities and partners is commendable. The DSOCR, the corrective measures that are yet to be completed, and the timeframe for their implementation are recommended for adoption.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.19

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision 46 COM 7A.39, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> continuing progress with actions to manage the property and protect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including further removal of intrusive and threatening vegetation, pending adoption and implementation of the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of Nan Madol World Heritage Site and the Sustainable Tourism Plan, the "Tree and Vegetation Management Review and Recommendations"

report, and the process established for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

- 4. <u>Takes note</u> of the updated information provided regarding the appointment of a Site/Property Manager, the issues for Pohnpei State identified through review of legislation LB392 and the protection provided to the property by Pohnpei State historic preservation laws under Pohnpei State Code, but nevertheless <u>reiterates its previous</u> <u>requests</u> to the State Party to address and implement previously identified matters of high priority, including:
 - a) Continuing implementation of vegetation management actions and clearing mangroves from the main canals,
 - b) Appointing and establishing a long-term commitment to the position of Site/Property Manager,
 - c) Ensuring that effective legal protection is provided to the property, including appropriate management arrangements, consistent with the commitments made by the State Party at the time of the inscription of the property, noting that this may be achieved through review and revisions to the Pohnpei State Code,
 - d) Adopting and implementing the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of the Nan Madol World Heritage Site, and the Sustainable Tourism Plan;
- 5. <u>Also takes note</u> that a draft HIA has been prepared for the tourism resort on Nahnhingi Island, within the buffer zone of the property, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to confirm that construction activity on this project has ceased, that the issues raised in the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review will be addressed, and that the HIA will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before work on this project resumes;
- 6. <u>Recalls its previous request</u> to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed and ongoing projects, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to the approval and/or implementation of any project, including significant conservation programmes;
- 7. <u>Also requests</u> the State Party to afford priority to the opening, resourcing and operation of the recently completed Visitor Centre;
- 8. <u>Takes note with satisfaction</u> of the effective process undertaken by the State Party, World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to prepare the proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), set of corrective measures yet to be completed and a timeframe for their completion;
- 9. <u>Adopts</u> the DSOCR, corrective measures and timeframe, as follows:
 - a) DSOCR:
 - (i) Intrusive Vegetation has been removed from canals which provide access to the five target islets (1. Nan Dowas, 2. Pein Kitel, 3. Idehd, 4. Pei Kapw, and 5. Pahn Kedira),
 - (ii) Major intrusive trees have been removed or stabilized from five target island/islets,
 - (iii) Silted canals waterways have been cleared,
 - *(iv)* A long-term plan is in place to manage silting of canals,

- (v) Retaining Walls on the five target islets have been repaired and are stable,
- (vi) The maintenance programme extends to the five target islets and to the full area of the inscribed property as is feasible for keeping waterways navigable,
- (vii) Processes are in place for heritage impact assessment of proposed actions,
- (viii) A strategy has been prepared to address the impacts of Climate Change, including sea level rise and stronger wave action,
- *(ix)* The management system is fully operational, including clarity of governance roles,
- (x) Acknowledgement of Nahnmwarki in management of Nan Madol in due time,
- (xi) A permanent Site Manager has been appointed,
- (xii) A human resource strategy is in place,
- (xiii) The Pohnpei State Code has been reviewed and revised if and as necessary to ensure that the property has adequate statutory protection and effective management,
- (xiv) A risk preparedness strategy has been prepared and adopted,
- (xv) Visitor carrying capacity has been determined,
- (xvi) The Visitor Center is open and fully functional,
- (xvii) Visitor circulation is defined and operational,

(xviii) Pedestrian Footpaths and access bridges are in useable condition;

- b) Corrective measures to be implemented:
 - (i) Intrusive Vegetation:
 - Instigate long-term vegetation management regime,
 - Direct funding for vegetation management to HPO,
 - (ii) Silting of Canals:

Based on the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of Nan Madol World Heritage site:

- Ensure navigation capabilities of the major canals for tourism and local community needs,
- Follow archaeological requirements for physical works to canals,
- Improve knowledge of the original depth of the canals, and how the silting process happened through calls for research,
- (iii) Retaining Walls:
 - Prevent further decay and achieve long term sustainability of retaining walls,
 - Based on a technical survey, develop a long-term strategy for conservation of the retaining walls,
- *(iv) Climate Change:*
 - Prepare a strategy for a sustainable response to the impacts of climate change,
 - Address impacts on visitor operations from climate change effects, through appropriate provisions in tourism plan,

- (v) Absence of fully functioning management system:
 - Appoint full time Site Manager, in a sustainable (funded) manner with position description in place,
 - Identify 'gaps' in existing statutory protection and amend Pohnpei State Code to address these gaps, including attributes that support OUV, heritage impact assessment and other requirements arising from World Heritage inscription,
 - Develop risk preparedness strategy,
 - Determine a long-term capacity building strategy, identifying external specialists and instigating a local training programme,
 - Establish and amend Pohnpei State Code to include a heritage impact assessment process, as per Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (UNESCO et al. 2022),
 - Define human resource needs for conservation and management,
- (vi) Visitor Center:
 - Work with municipal and State government to enable opening of Visitor Center,
 - Work with Tourism Office to direct tourist traffic (including tour operators) to the Visitor Center,
- (vii) Visitor Circulation and Pedestrian Footpaths and Bridges:
 - Prepare and implement visitor circulation plan,
 - Improve footpaths and bridges,
- (viii) Changes to traditional chiefly institutions and systems of governance:
 - Update Nahnmwarki on guiding legislation for care of Nan Madol,
- c) Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:
 - *(i)* The implementation of corrective measures should be completed within a period of five years;
- 10. <u>Calls upon</u> the international community to support the State Party in the implementation of the above-mentioned corrective measures;
- 11. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 12. <u>Decides</u> to retain Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

20. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

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

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

Not yet drafted

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

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

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-2018) Total amount approved: USD 15,000 For details, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/assistance/</u>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 2016: USD 30,670 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for the Application of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban landscape (2011 UNESCO HUL Recommendation) at the World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan; 2019: USD 43,115 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for building capacity in the conservation and management of World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan.

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

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

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

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2025, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/885/documents/.

In April 2025, the State Party submitted a Draft Outline for the re-nomination of the property as a Significant Boundary Modification (SBM).

The State Party has responded to the decision of the last Committee in relation to progress with exploring a possible re-nomination. Work on the proposal has been led by the Agency of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Uzbekistan in collaboration with the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) and has involved discussion with the International Advisory Committee (IAC). As requested by the Committee, there has also been dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, which was undertaken with written advice and two online meetings in January and March 2025.

The outcome of this work is an outline of a proposed way forward for a re-nomination based on a selection of Timurid monuments which would entail a SBM and a new justification for the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). This would reflect a shift away from an overall intact city towards a selected ensemble of Timurid monuments with defined urban areas seen as their essential setting. A tentative name for the proposed new property is 'The Ak-Sarai and the Timurid Monuments of Shakhrisyabz'.

The report also includes details of the following:

- The state of conservation of all the key monuments;
- An expert report on the conservation of Ak-Sarai: proposals to undertake preliminary study and research on the Ak-Sarai majolica in 2025 and outline of proposals to address salinity issues at Ak-Sarai including installation of a horizontal waterproofing layer through the injection of silicate into bore holes;
- A targeted programme for research on the Kok Gumbaz complex in 2025-2030;
- Installation of seismic monitoring for key monuments;
- A new Master Plan for the city is to be developed and it will integrate the new OUV and boundaries resulting from the SBM, if the modification is approved by the Committee;
- Work is underway to create a Cultural Heritage Code;
- A project to develop Heritage Documentation and Evaluation Principles for the Conservation and Sustainability of the Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz is being undertaken in collaboration with Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University;
- Work is continuing to record traditional houses and upgrade them for modern living.

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

The significant progress made regarding the submission of a possible boundary modification is to be welcomed, as is the engagement with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. An appropriate basis now appears to be in place upon which research and documentation is being undertaken to inform a detailed way forward.

The proposals submitted by the State Party respond to the decisions of the Committee to 'further explore the possibility of a significant boundary modification, in line with Paragraph 166 of the Operational Guidelines, and to study and present "new justification for criteria based on an OUV that would reflect a shift away from the integrity of an overall intact city and towards an ensemble of Timurid monuments, with the urban areas seen as their essential settings'.

Based on detailed assessment of the monuments within the Historic Centre, advice and discussion with ICOMOS, and a technical expert workshop, which was held in Shakhrisyabz, in March 2025, the submitted proposal suggests a SBM, which reduces the property to four Timurid monuments with 'The Ak-Sarai and the Monuments of Shakhrisyabz' as a possible new name.

The emperor Amir Temur (1336-1405) who was born in Shakhrisyabz transformed this small provincial town into an imperial capital as well as a religious and cultural centre. He constructed the Ak-Sarai (White Palace), mosques, a necropolis including his own funerary crypt, two hammams, a caravanserai, and a madrasa, as well as defensive wall to enclose the city. Most of these survived but some have been greatly altered. Four have been chosen to reflect the vision and achievements of Amir Temur, while the rest of the city within the walls will be a buffer zone. The State Party acknowledges that the surviving *mahalas* have heritage value, particularly for the local community, but also as a context for the main monuments, and as such deserve to be protected, safeguarded and recovered, where possible.

The basic outline that has been suggested provides a satisfactory approach on which to base a SBM. However, further work is necessary to fully substantiate the details of the four monuments, and to prepare a detailed comparative analysis in order to set the monuments both individually and as an ensemble, within the context of other Timurid monuments both in the inscribed property and elsewhere. The State Party has already indicated its intention to undertake non-invasive surveys of the setting of the monuments and further research to allow clarity on the original extent of each of the monuments and how they have changed over time. Further work will also need to be undertaken to develop the restoration plan advised by the Committee before any SBM is submitted.

It is recommended that the Committee support the approach that has been submitted by the State Party and as the compilation of a SBM deserves to be given adequate time in order to optimise data gathering, archaeological surveys, research and the development of conservation and interpretation plans. It is also recommended that the Committee agree to allow up to three years for the SBM to be submitted.

Furthermore, as the Committee has explicitly encouraged this SBM and as the overall process of arriving at this point has allowed a full investigation of possible alternative approaches, this site does not need to be subject to a Preliminary Assessment process.

The information provided on the state of conservation of the monuments is helpful to understand the scope and extent of necessary conservation actions and as a basis for the development of a detailed restoration plan for the monuments that will form part of a SBM. Nearly all the monuments are suffering to some degree from water ingress through their roofs and particularly from the soil. Care is needed on appropriate treatments and irreversible ones should be avoided if possible. There remains concern over proposed silicone treatment of the Ak-Sarai walls which would involve drillings holes near to their base. To be effective, a very large amount of silicone would be needed, which could over stiffen the masonry making it more brittle. This could adversely influence the seismic resistance of this extremely fragile monument and given the frequency of earthquakes and their impact on the monument, as noted in the 2003 mission report, could pose high risks. Moreover, the foundations of the walls would remain saturated after treatment.

More fundamentally, a water ingress effects monuments across the city, the Committee might like to stress the need for this issue first to be addressed city wide and to encompass rising damp, drainage and the finishes of buildings. Such a wider ranging study needs to explore the potential of reinstating a drainage system around the city, as envisaged under the Integrity section in the Statement of OUV, which could replicate the benefits of the traditional water management system involving canals across the city that was in use until the early 20th century but whose traces have been largely removed during recent demolition work.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.20

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **40 COM 7B.48, 41 COM 7A.57, 42 COM 7A.4** and **44 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Also recalling</u> Decision **43 COM 7A.44** (Baku, 2019), in which the Committee allowed the State Party two years to explore possible options for a significant boundary modification (SBM) or a new nomination in order to consider again whether the property should be retained on the World Heritage List for a further period if a clear way forward has been proposed, or to delete the property, and had furthermore urged the State Party to develop a restoration plan with sufficient details to allow appropriate assessment of the potential for each option to justify Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) before proceeding with any work on a SBM or on a new nomination and further encouraged the State Party to seek upstream advice from the Advisory Bodies;

- 4. <u>Further recalling</u> Decision **45 COM 7A.54** (Riyadh, 2023), in which the Committee concluded that the proposal submitted by the State Party should be explored further while retaining the property on the World Heritage List at that stage, and encouraged the State Party to further explore the possibility of a SBM, in line with Paragraph 166 of the Operational Guidelines, and to study and present "new justification for criteria based on an OUV that would reflect a shift away from the integrity of an overall intact city and towards an ensemble of Timurid monuments, with the urban areas seen as their essential settings", while noting that it was not possible at this stage to confirm if the new proposition could be justified, recommending specific consultations on it with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on this matter;
- 5. <u>Welcomes</u> the dialogue that has been undertaken with the World Heritage Centre and the ICOMOS involving written advice and two online meetings in January and March 2025 in order to refine proposals for a SBM;
- 6. <u>Also welcomes</u> the submission of a 'Draft Outline for the Re-nomination of the Property' for a SBM, which would reduce the property to four monuments that reflect the vision and achievements of Amir Temur in developing Shakhrisyabz as an imperial capital and religious and cultural centre, while the rest of the city within the walls would become a buffer zone with surviving mahalas providing essential context for the main monuments;
- 7. <u>Considers</u> that the 'Draft Outline for the Re-nomination of the Property' provides a satisfactory approach on which to base a proposed SBM, although further work is necessary to fully substantiate the details and scope of the four monuments, to prepare a detailed comparative analysis in order to set the monuments individually and collectively within the context of other Timurid monuments both in the inscribed property and elsewhere, and to develop a restoration plan as advised by the Committee before any submission is made;
- 8. <u>Agrees</u> to allow the State Party a period of up to three years for necessary data gathering, archaeological surveys, research and the development of conservation and interpretation plans needed for the preparation of a dossier for the submission of a SBM (by **1 February 2029**), and to keep the property on the World Heritage List until the Committee has considered the evaluation of this proposed modification;
- 9. <u>Also confirms</u> that as the Committee has explicitly encouraged the submission of a significant boundary modification (SBM) and the overall collaboration with ICOMOS has allowed a full investigation of possible alternative approaches for such a modification, the SBM does not need to be subject to a Preliminary Assessment;
- 10. <u>Notes</u> the detailed information provided on the scope and extent of necessary conservation and that nearly all monuments are suffering to some degree from water ingress from the soil; further considers that care is needed on appropriate treatments and irreversible ones should be avoided if possible, and <u>expresses concern</u> at the proposed silicone treatment of the extremely fragile Ak-Sarai walls which are already showing cracks from earthquakes, as it could stiffen the masonry and adversely influence its seismic resistance; and <u>requests</u> the State Party not to progress this treatment;
- 11. <u>Further notes</u> that as water ingress effects monuments across the city, <u>stresses</u> the need for this issue first to be addressed city-wide before remedial proposals for individual monuments are defined, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to undertake with some urgency a study to explore how the rising water table might be lowered through a drainage system around the city, as envisaged under the Integrity section in the Statement of OUV, and which could replicate the benefits of the former traditional water management system based on canals across the property that have now been largely demolished;

- 12. <u>Also notes</u> the development of a new Master Plan and a Heritage Code and <u>requests</u> the State Party to submit drafts of these for review before they are finally approved;
- 13. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 14. <u>Decides</u> to retain Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

21. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2017-present

<u>Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> The current planning controls: adopted developments and lack of adequate planning rules

<u>Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Proposed and adopted by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **44 COM7A.32**

<u>Corrective measures identified</u> Proposed and adopted by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **44 COM7A.32**

<u>Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures</u> Adopted by the World Heritage Committee, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/7695</u> and <u>https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2021/whc21-44com-7A.Add-en.pdf</u>

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1033/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0 Total amount approved: USD 0 For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1033/assistance/

<u>UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds</u> N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2002: ICOMOS Expert Mission to the 'Historic Centre of Vienna'; May 2002: World Heritage Centre Mission to the 'Historic Centre of Vienna'; September 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the 'Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn' and the 'Historic Centre of Vienna'; November 2015: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the 'Historic Centre of Vienna'; November 2018: joint high-level World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the Historic Centre of Vienna; March 2024: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the 'Historic Centre of Vienna'

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing: High-rise construction projects in Central Vienna (proposed Vienna Ice-Skating Club – Intercontinental Hotel – Vienna Konzerthaus 'Heumarkt Neu' project)
- Proposed new developments, including the Wien Museum and the Winterthur Building, new hotel annex in the Schwarzenberg Garden, underground visitor centre in the Upper Belvedere Palace
- Legal framework: Lack of effectiveness of the overall protection and governance of the property (issue partially resolved)
- Legal framework: Lack of appropriateness of planning controls in the 'High-Rise Concept 2014' and the 'Glacis Master Plan' (issue partially resolved)
- · Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Desirability of conservation of historic roof constructions within the property (issue partially resolved)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1033/

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2025, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1033/documents</u>. Progress on a number of conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions is reported as follows:

- Progress has been made with the adopted corrective measures and an updated schedule is included in the State Party report;
- Amendments to the *Federal Monuments Protection Act* entered into force on 1 September 2024, incorporating World Heritage and provides the National Monuments Authority an enhanced role in the protection of World Heritage properties in Austria. The National Monuments Authority has established a World Heritage Office;
- The City of Vienna appointed a World Heritage expert to the Advisory Board for Urban Planning, Urban Design and World Heritage. The planning instruments STEP 2035 and related High-Rise Concept are expected to be adopted in April 2025. STEP 2035 will provide permanent support to the World Heritage property and the revised High-Rise Concept will re-establish the property as an exclusion zone for high-rise buildings (above 35m) and include a binding regulation for the obligatory conduct of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs);
- The (2022) Management Plan for the property will be reviewed after five years, consistent with the process for management plans for heritage properties in Austria. Relevant decisions by the World Heritage Committee, mission reports, technical reviews and HIAs will inform the review;
- A *Public Space Strategy Concept* is being developed for the city centre, which will include the enhancement and greening of public spaces. As noted by the 2024 Advisory mission, the House of History Austria is being relocated from the New Imperial Castle to the Museum Quarter;
- An HIA for a revised project for a new hotel annex proposed within the Schwarzenberg Garden (which precedes the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger) was submitted with the State Party report and concludes that the new design reduces the impact on major attributes (squares, gardens and parks; city vedutas and views; baroque palaces and gardens);
- The planned new Visitor Centre for the Upper Belvedere Palace, as determined through an architectural competition, will be constructed underground without changing the visual appearance of the historic environment. An HIA for the project was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in December 2024 and concluded that the project has the potential to contribute positively to the attributes that support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, although there will be impacts on archaeological remains and temporary visual intrusion during construction;
- The Heumarkt Neu project remains on hold pending the outcome of legal proceedings regarding the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for project variants. The City of Vienna, in consultation with the project applicant, will decide whether to proceed with an already submitted scheme or a new variant, and this decision will be informed by the decisions of the Committee and the Austrian courts;
- The existing Vienna metro system is currently being extended by 12 new stations on Lines 2 and 5, with all work being carried out underground and the alignments almost entirely outside the property. The construction of a small new station building is planned at the 'Rathaus' station, on the boundary between the property and its buffer zone, and a new station is also planned at 'Frankhplatz' (within the buffer zone of the property, close to the property boundary), but neither building is expected to result in a negative impact on the property's OUV.

On 18 April 2025, an ICOMOS Technical Review on the submitted documentation and related HIAs for the planned new Visitor Centre at the Upper Belvedere Palace and the 'Guesthouse in the Park' project within the Schwarzenberg Garden was transmitted to the State Party.

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

The State Party has made significant progress in implementing the adopted corrective measures required to achieve the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World

Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and to address previous Committee decisions and mission recommendations. Welcome initiatives include amendments to the *Federal Monuments Protection Act*, the establishment of a new World Heritage Office and the appointment of an expert advisor to the Advisory Board for Urban Planning, Urban Design and World Heritage. The forthcoming STEP 2035 and related High-Rise Concept include provisions to support World Heritage and the re-establishment of the property as a high-rise exclusion zone. The proposed *Public Space Strategy Concept* should be reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS prior to finalisation, adoption and implementation.

Both the 2024 Advisory mission and the preceding 2022 Technical Review by ICOMOS recommended revisions to the property's new Management Plan, and their recommendations could be considered when the Management Plan is reviewed after five years of its adoption, aligning with the timeframe in the DSOCR for evaluating its efficacy.

The submitted project documentation and HIAs are welcome. With regard to the proposed new hotel annex in the Schwarzenberg Garden, the Committee has previously expressed major concerns about the proposal, and with regard to its revised design and its accompanying HIA, the ICOMOS Technical Review of April 2025 concluded that refinement of the design is needed to minimise negative impacts on the baroque layout and visual integrity of the Belvedere / Schwarzenberg Complex through an iterative HIA process, which should also assess the cumulative impacts of the various projects in the Schwarzenberg Garden and the implementation of previously proposed mitigation measures. In addition, the Committee may wish to remind the State Party of the previous request to submit further details on the proposed rehabilitation of the Schwarzenberg Garden and documentation on the renovation of the Schwarzenberg Palace to the World Heritage Centre. For the planned underground visitor centre for the Upper Belvedere Palace, the HIA relies on limited design documentation as the project is at an early planning stage. The ICOMOS Technical Review of April 2025 concluded that this project, if properly further developed, can be aligned with the maintenance of OUV, but that further iterations of the HIA should accompany the design process and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to any planning approval processes at the municipal level. This HIA, as well as the further developed HIA for the Schwarzenberg Garden projects, should follow the methodology outlined in the Guidance and Toolkit of Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for evaluating and reporting the degree of impact.

The State Party has complied with the Committee's request to submit information on the extension of the Vienna metro system. With regard to the planned new 'Rathaus' and 'Frankhplatz' station buildings, while the State Party indicates that these would not have an adverse impact on the property's OUV, it is recommended that the details of their design, including the related HIA, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to approval and commencement of works.

It is also noted that the Heumarkt Neu project is awaiting the completion of legal procedures regarding the need for EIA processes for design variants; nevertheless, the Committee may wish to remind the State Party that any further revised design proposal should be informed by the four options proposed by the 2024 Advisory mission in order to achieve the relevant DSOCR element. The Committee should request the State Party to submit the detailed plans aligned with this request, as well as a revised HIA. The Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee should be invited by the State Party once this documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in order to fully assess the level of implementation of all the corrective measures and to determine whether the conditions for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger have been met.

Further corrective measures remain to be completed, including improving the definition and mapping of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property, establishing and reporting on a monitoring and evaluation programme for the state of conservation of the property and its management, applying and extending the roof cadastre throughout the property, and ensuring the protection of historic gardens in private ownership. The State Party should be encouraged to complete all the remaining corrective measures in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.21

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **37** COM 7B.71, **39** COM 7B.94, **40** COM 7B.49, **41** COM 7B.42, **42** COM 7A.5, **43** COM 7A.45, **44** COM 7A.32, **45** COM 7A.55 and **46** COM 7A.1 adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Commends</u> the State Party on the further progress made in implementing the adopted corrective measures required to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and previous decisions of the Committee, including the operationalisation of amendments to the Federal Monuments Protection Act, the establishment of a new World Heritage Office, the appointment by the City of Vienna of a World Heritage, and the forthcoming adoption of the STEP 2035 and the High-Rise Concept, which will re-establish the property as an exclusion zone for high-rise buildings and provide further support for conducting World Heritage-focused impact assessments;
- 4. <u>Welcomes</u> the proposed Public Space Strategy Concept for the Vienna City Centre and <u>requests</u> that its draft be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to finalisation, adoption and implementation;
- 5. <u>Notes</u> the information provided by the State Party that the Management Plan for the property will be reviewed after five years, <u>also welcomes</u> the commitment by the State Party that revisions to the Management Plan will be informed by the 2022 ICOMOS Technical Review and the findings and recommendations of the 2024 Advisory mission and <u>recalls</u> that in accordance with the adopted DSOCR, the efficacy of the Management Plan for the property must be demonstrated in practice through monitoring and evaluation over a period of five years;
- 6. <u>Acknowledges</u> the submission of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for a revised project for a new hotel annex project in the Schwarzenberg Garden, <u>recalls its previous</u> <u>request</u> to the State Party not to proceed with the previous design, and <u>also requests</u> the State Party to:
 - a) Refine the current design to minimise negative impacts on the baroque layout and visual integrity of the Belvedere / Schwarzenberg complex through an iterative HIA process, which should also assess the cumulative impacts of the various projects within the Schwarzenberg Garden,
 - b) Ensure that all HIAs follow the methodology for evaluating and reporting the degree of impact as outlined in the Guidance and Toolkit of Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,
 - c) Provide the World Heritage Centre with further details on the proposed rehabilitation of the Schwarzenberg Garden as well as documentation on the Schwarzenberg Palace renovation project for review by the Advisory Bodies;

- 7. <u>Appreciates</u> the submission of the initial design plans for the planned underground visitor centre for the Upper Belvedere Palace and the associated HIA, and <u>further requests</u> the State Party to ensure that further iterations of the HIA follow the recommendations outlined in the ICOMOS Technical Review of April 2025, and to submit a further iteration of the HIA, following the methodology for evaluating and reporting the degree of impact as outlined in the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decisions or actions are taken that may be difficult to reverse;
- 8. <u>Also notes</u> the update provided by the State Party on the status of the Heumarkt Neu project, and <u>reiterates its previous consideration</u> that a further revised design proposal for the Heumarkt Neu development should be informed by the four options proposed by the 2024 Advisory mission, in order to achieve the relevant DSOCR element, and <u>requests furthermore</u> the State Party to submit detailed plans on the chosen design, aligned with this recommendation and a revised and updated HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review with the Advisory Bodies;
- 9. <u>Further welcomes</u> the information submitted by the State Party on the extension of the Vienna Metro system, including planned new station buildings at the 'Rathaus' and at 'Frankhplatz', and <u>requests moreover</u> the State Party to submit details of the proposed buildings, including the relevant impact assessments, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS before any decisions are taken that may be difficult to reverse;
- 10. <u>Further notes</u> that a number of the adopted corrective measures have yet to be completed, including, in addition to those noted above, improving the definition and mapping of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property, establishing and reporting on a monitoring and evaluation programme for the state of conservation of the property and its management, applying and extending the roof cadastre throughout the property, and ensuring the protection of historic gardens and green spaces in private ownership, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to continue their implementation in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies with a view to achieving the DSOCR;
- 11. <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to consider inviting the Reactive Monitoring mission previously requested by the Committee, once the detailed plans and designs of the revised Heumarkt Neu project have been submitted and reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in order to fully assess the level of implementation of all the corrective measures and to determine whether the conditions for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger have been met;
- 12. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 13. <u>Decides</u> to retain Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

22. Roșia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania

23. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

24. Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

25. L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

26. The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

27. City of Potosi (Bolivia, Plurinational State of)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

28. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

29. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

30. Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of)

AFRICA

31. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

32. Timbuktu (Mali)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

33. Tomb of Askia (Mali)

ARAB STATES

34. Abu Mena (Egypt)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

35. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

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

- Nearby construction of a dam entailing partial flooding and seepage
- Armed conflict

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

<u>Corrective measures identified</u> In progress

<u>Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures</u> In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/documents/

<u>International Assistance</u> Requests approved: 1 (2003) Total amount approved: USD 50,000 For details, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/assistance/</u>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted (for World Heritage properties of Iraq):

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 100,000 from the Heritage Emergency Fund support for Iraqi World Heritage properties.
- USD 35,782 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (for Strengthening capacities in state of conservation reporting on properties inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger)
- USD 50,000 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (Strengthening capacities for the documentation and conservation of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger in Iraq)

Previous monitoring missions

November 2002: UNESCO mission for the Makhool Dam project; June 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March/April 2022: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management activities
- Managements systems/management plan (absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan)
- Water infrastructure (dam building project) (resolved)
- Flooding (partial flooding and seepage)
- Fragile mud brick structures
- Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict (including deliberate destruction of heritage)
- Inadequate resources to support urgent repairs and maintenance.

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1130/documents</u>. Progress in conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- Efforts have been underway to seek support for the preparation of a Conservation Plan and Management Plan for the property;
- Priorities for maintenance works are identified as follows: the Ziggurat of the god Ashur is suffering from the effects of rainwater and humidity, which cause decay in its pyramid shape, leading to cavities and further erosion; Tabira Gate, which was severely damaged during recent conflict and partly repaired; erosion in the river cliff area, caused by the rising of the Tigris river levels, which threatens the archaeological site and Walter Andrae Palace;
- Limited progress has been made in implementing the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission;
- No maintenance work was carried out because of insufficient funding, although maintenance plans for some site components have been prepared, particularly for the Ziggurat;
- The property is now protected by a roll top (BRC) fence on three sides, with the Tigris River along its eastern side. Uncontrolled access and the use of heavy machinery have ended;
- State Party actions to confirm the permanent cancellation of Makhool Dam are ongoing. In a formal letter to the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers, the Economic Ministerial Council has recommended its permanent 'removal'. A letter from the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) to the Ministry of Water Resources referred to the dam's cancellation.

In the framework of the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project "Strengthening capacities in state of conservation reporting on properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger", an online technical meeting was organized on 21 May 2024. The meeting commenced the process for supporting the State Party in the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with ICOMOS.

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

The State Party has pursued support for the development of Conservation and Management Plans for the property. The preparation of these plans remains a priority, as outlined in the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission. It is crucial to commence this important work at the earliest opportunity to ensure the effective management of the property.

No progress has been reported on addressing urgent stabilisation and conservation work. Nevertheless, some priorities for urgent maintenance works have been identified, including for the Ziggurat. Erosion in the area of the 'river cliff' is threatening the Walter Andrae Palace, and previous mitigation measures have not provided an enduring solution, with recent damage occurring to the site's topography and threatening archaeological remains.

Recalling that priority should be given to establishing a road map for long-term conservation and management actions, necessary emergency work should adhere to the principle of minimal intervention. Given the fragility of the property and the ongoing challenges of water seepage, humidity, and environmental degradation, it is crucial that any remedial and repair works be guided by the above-mentioned comprehensive Conservation Plan, which is yet to be developed in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party has confirmed that the property is protected by a BRC fence along three of its sides – with the Tigris River securing its eastern side, and that uncontrolled access and the use of heavy machinery have been halted. These were some of the actions outlined as a priority by the 2022 mission and requested by Decision **46 COM 7A.15**. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to implement the remaining priority actions, having particular regard to regular maintenance activities following testing in a pilot area and monitoring, and to submit a detailed report on all planned and ongoing interventions carried out and their priority.

The State Party has indicated that the permanent cancellation of the Makhool Dam project, which would ensure the protection of the property from associated risks, is ongoing. It is essential to the conservation of the property that this project be unequivocally permanently cancelled.

The Committee may wish to reiterate its previous request to the State Party to continue submitting detailed information on all future works that could impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The process for the elaboration of the DSOCR has been initiated through the support of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue this process actively and to establish the DSOCR, with corrective measures and a timeframe for implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session. The State Party should also continue the development of the pending boundary clarification, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, to be presented to the Committee at its 48th session.

Based on the above, it is recommended to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.35

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision 46 COM 7A.15 adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to continue its efforts towards the preparation of the previously requested Conservation and Management Plans, as also recommended by the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and <u>reiterates its request</u> to prepare these documents that are needed to guide the conservation and management of the property, as soon as possible in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
- 4. <u>Recalling</u> that the property has been suffering from water seepage, humidity and environmental degradation for a considerable time, <u>also encourages</u> the State Party to pursue consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prioritise urgent maintenance and stabilisation actions for damaged and deteriorated components, while <u>also recalling</u> that emergency stabilisation work should only be undertaken in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent and according to the principle of minimal intervention;
- 5. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the efforts undertaken by the State Party to protect the property, including the prevention of uncontrolled access and the installation of a protective fence, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to afford priority and allocate required resources to enable

implementation of the remaining recommendations of the 2022 mission, with particular regard to:

- a) Carrying out regular maintenance activities, following testing in a pilot area and monitoring over a certain period,
- b) Submitting a detailed report on all planned and ongoing interventions carried out and their priority to the World Heritage Centre, noting that all interventions must be integrated into the comprehensive conservation plan for the property;
- 6. <u>Welcomes</u> the further advice regarding the Makhool Dam project, but <u>also urges</u> the State Party to provide definitive confirmation that the project is permanently cancelled;
- 7. <u>Also reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all future works that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 8. <u>Further encourages</u> the State Party to pursue the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and the necessary corrective measures, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, and to allocate the personnel and resources required, to enable examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 9. <u>Encourages furthermore</u> the State Party to continue the development of the pending boundary clarification, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, and in conformity with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 10. <u>Reiterates its call</u> upon all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
- 11. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 12. <u>Decides</u> to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

36. Hatra (Iraq)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

<u>Criteria</u> (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

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

<u>Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict

<u>Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Adopted, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8158/</u>

<u>Corrective measures identified</u> Adopted, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8158/</u>

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Adopted, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8158/ but outdated and needs to be revised

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1999) Total amount approved: USD 3,500 For details, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/assistance/</u>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted (for all World Heritage Sites of Iraq):

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 100 000 from the Heritage Emergency Fund support for Iraqi World Heritage properties
- USD 35,782 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (for Strengthening capacities in state of conservation reporting on properties inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger)
- USD 50,000 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (Strengthening capacities for the documentation and conservation of Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger in Iraq)

Previous monitoring missions

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

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Armed conflict
- Illegal activities
- Major looting of Iraqi archaeological sites (resolved at Hatra)
- Need for a Conservation Plan for the Temenos area and a Site Management Plan

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277/documents/</u>. Progress in conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- As part of the corrective measures, a column of the portico near the western side of the Temple of Shahiro in the Temenos area was rebuilt restoring it to its natural state using original stones. The architrave was also restored with original materials;
- Funds have been allocated for urgent maintenance, and a committee formed by the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH), and the Nineveh Antiquities and Heritage Inspectorate identified maintenance and restoration needs in the Temenos area, including works to the Great Temple, the Temple of Allat, the Temple of the Triad, the arch of the middle Iwan of the Temple of Samyah, roof repairs, removal of crane footings and re-establishment of sanitary facilities;
- Many artefacts displaced during recent conflict were documented, collected, numbered, and stored in warehouses. Additional warehouses were prepared to receive the remaining undocumented artefacts. Two large, fragile artefacts near the storage warehouse were protected with iron canopies to shield them from weather;
- Monitoring requirements at the property must address climate and weather, moisture ingress and vegetation, but at present there are no intrusive developments nor significant visitor impacts;

- The archaeological site has been protected by a roll top (BRC) fence, with access through one gate on the eastern side. Security forces and the Antiquities Protection Police regularly patrol the area to prevent violations or disturbance to archaeological features between in the area between the inner and outer city walls;
- The Site Management Plan has not yet been prepared owing to lack of funding;
- Recently, tourism has increased, so there is a need for a reception center, guided paths, audio/visual aids, and tour guides;
- A festival was organized on 29 February 2024, the "Hatra Spirit Revival Festival".

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

The State Party has reported on actions undertaken, including implementation of some of the adopted corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). Nevertheless, owing to a lack of funding, it was not possible to continue with the execution of corrective measures as a priority, nor the preparation of a Site Management Plan, which would address the requirements for management, conservation, and visitor management, including additional facilities and services to address increasing tourism.

Corrective measures which have continued include collection, documentation, cataloguing and ensuring adequate storage and protection of archaeological artefacts. This activity needs to continue to ensure that significant cultural material, as well as documents and historical data are adequately stored, managed, and available for use in monitoring and conservation of the property, as previously requested in Decision **46 COM 7A.16**.

A range of urgent interventions have been identified. Only urgent stabilization measures should be undertaken, pending preparation of adequate diagnostic studies and the Conservation Plan for the Temenos area previously requested by the Committee in Decision **46 COM 7A.16**. This Conservation Plan, which is also a key corrective measure, should inform further conservation and restoration interventions. The Committee should therefore request the State Party to prioritise its preparation and encourage execution of other pending corrective measures, including the installation of cameras to reinforce site security, assessing risks at monuments indirectly impacted by the conflict, and undertaking diagnostic studies and planning for restoration works, including works at the Temples of Samya, the Triad, and priority interventions at the Temples of Shahiru and Allat. The State Party might also be encouraged to consider other projects identified by the recently formed committee from the SBAH and Nineveh Antiquities and Heritage Inspectorate.

Important recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission are yet to be addressed, particularly the preparation of a Site Management Plan, selection of pilot interventions following completion of the Conservation Plan for the Temenos area, and monitoring such interventions over time to assess their efficacy, elaboration of a monitoring programme and training staff in its implementation, and preparing a strategy and allocating resources for documentation management.

The Committee may wish to remind the State Party of its obligation to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all projects, including major conservation works, that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and that for major projects, the information should include Heritage Impact Assessments, prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in the World Heritage Context.

The State Party submitted a boundary clarification for the property in July 2024, which will be presented to the Committee at its 47th session. The Committee may wish to reiterate its previous encouragement to the State Party to consider the elaboration of a minor boundary modification proposal, for the creation of a buffer zone as an added layer of protection for the property, in conformity with paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines.

Based on the above, it is recommended to retain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.36

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision 46 COM 7A.16, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Notes</u> the State Party's efforts to implement previous Committee Decisions and corrective measures to achieve the adopted Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- 4. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to continue implementing the corrective measures as a priority, and to seek any necessary further support, in particular for:
 - a) Reinforcing site security by installing surveillance cameras,
 - b) Repairing damage resulting from conflict (including completing the temporary transport of archaeological finds to be photographed and catalogued, as well as ensuring their adequate storage and protection),
 - c) Assessing risks at monuments indirectly impacted by the conflict and addressing vulnerabilities, including through urgent stabilization, diagnostic studies and planning for restoration works at the Temples of Samya, the Triad, and priority interventions at the Temples of Shahiru and Allat,
 - d) Preparation of the Conservation Plan for the Temenos area;
- 5. <u>Reiterates its request</u> to further implement the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular addressing the following:
 - a) Elaboration of a monitoring programme, coupled with a capacity building programme for its implementation,
 - b) Once the Conservation Plan for the Temenos area is prepared, carrying out of the subsequent selection of pilot interventions and their monitoring over time to assess their efficacy,
 - c) Prioritization of the preparation of a Site Management Plan that includes requirements related to management, conservation, and visitor management, including additional facilities and services to address increasing tourism,
 - d) Preparation of a strategy and allocation of resources for documentation management;
- 6. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to consider other projects identified by the recently formed committee from the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage and Nineveh Antiquities and Heritage Inspectorate;
- 7. <u>Also encourages</u> the State Party to consider the elaboration of a minor boundary modification proposal for the designation of a buffer zone, for added protection of the property, in conformity with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 8. <u>Recalls</u> the need for the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned and ongoing works that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments, prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for any major projects, and to do so before

making any decisions that will be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

- 9. <u>Reiterates its call</u> upon all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
- 10. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 11. <u>Decides</u> to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

37. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

<u>Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> State of conflict in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property.

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

<u>Corrective measures identified</u> Not yet identified

<u>Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures</u> Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/documents/

<u>International Assistance</u> Requests approved: 0 Total amount approved: USD 0 For details, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/assistance/</u>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 from the Nordic World Heritage Fund for training and documentation aiming at the preparation of the Nomination File Total amount granted for all World Heritage Sites of Iraq:

- USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 1.5 million by the Government of Japan (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 154,000 by the Government of Norway (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- EUR 300,000 by the Government of Italy (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 35,000 by the Government of the Netherlands (for cultural heritage, including World Heritage)
- USD 100,000 from the Heritage Emergency Fund support for Iraqi World Heritage properties
- USD 35,782 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (for Strengthening capacities in state of conservation reporting on properties inscribed on the list of World Heritage in Danger)

• USD 50,000 from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (Strengthening capacities for the documentation and conservation of Properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger in Iraq)

Previous monitoring missions

June 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2023: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan
- Armed conflict
- Weathering and lack of maintenance affecting the fragile structures
- State of conflict in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property
- Encroachment, urban sprawl and bulldozing activities
- Need for a comprehensive Conservation Plan to guide works
- Compliance with advice from previous technical reviews to retain authenticity

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/276/documents/</u>. Progress in conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- A Management Unit was established in June 2024, but has not yet implemented planned actions, such as surveys, documentation, assessments, or conservation planning. Efforts are ongoing to gather information and secure expertise;
- A table of encroachments is provided, including ploughing, planting, bulldozing, construction of residential houses, warehouses and military points, transporting soil, and converting sites into specific uses. Lawsuits have been filed against violators. A report on damaged components will be available in early 2025, to inform development of an emergency conservation plan;
- Abu Dulaf Mosque and Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya have been identified as priorities. Abu Dulaf Mosque has suffered significant damage arising from environmental and human factors. Recommended works comprise short-term repairs and the installation of fencing, then comprehensive restoration in the long-term. Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya has been damaged by projectile fire and is currently being used as a military barracks and requires repairs. All major archaeological sites in the city require fencing to prevent further damage;
- Works have proceeded at the Great Mosque, including covering floors and walls, fountain installation, electrical installations and fence construction;
- Works in the Caliphal Palace addressed the façade of the Iwans and walls of Al-Baraka Palace, as well as entrances, gypsum decorations, interior cladding, and floor paving. Prefabricated construction of facilities was undertaken (for site management and a health complex), while the visitor hall has been completed. Watchtowers and wooden skylights for lighting were installed;
- At Al-Hir Palace, damaged joints were treated after plaster removal; cladding and paving works have been completed.
- Bab Al-'Amma's walls and roofs have been stitched and plastered. Its floor, confirmed to be not original, was replaced. A parquet wood path was also completed;
- Detailed information concerning a future project for the Al-Ashiq Palace, will be shared for review and guidance;
- With regard to the previously planned school construction project, archaeological remains were found while digging the foundations; a committee formed by the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage did not approve any construction or refilling. This open cavity is now a safety risk and guidance is sought on whether to conduct an excavation or refill.

A workshop was organized by the authorities on "Re-evaluation of the Boundaries of the Samarra Archaeological City World Heritage Site" on 5-7 November 2024, in which the UNESCO Office in Iraq participated.

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

The State Party has reported progress in addressing previous requests of the Committee, particularly the implementation of some recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, including the establishment of an onsite Management Unit, and identification of components requiring urgent intervention. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to pursue the implementation of its previous requests, particularly with regard to surveys, documentation, assessments and conservation planning.

Efforts to gather information and secure expertise for the new Management Unit are ongoing. The State Party's monitoring of encroachments on the property and efforts made to address them, are all noted with appreciation. Nevertheless, the preparation of a detailed map with an assessment of existing and potential encroachments on the property would enable a better understanding of the overall threat of encroachment on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It would also assist in monitoring and ensuring a timely response when needed.

The State Party has informed about the implementation and completion of projects for which technical reviews were undertaken by ICOMOS, including at the Great Mosque, Caliphal Palace, Al Hir, and the Bab al'Amma. The Committee had requested the State Party to proceed according to the findings and recommendations of these technical reviews. In addition, the 2023 mission had recommended that for major monuments that have been previously reconstructed and are currently undergoing further interventions, it is important to carry out complete data collection and mapping of previous interventions, in addition to a detailed condition assessment. Accordingly, conservation measures should be established and planned, outlining minimum interventions, with the main aim of retaining authenticity. The mission also recommended that the State Party should seek alternative options to cladding, and to preserve all remains of original building materials, such as parts of walls, tiles and stucco work, in situ. It is very unfortunate that these recommendations have not been followed, resulting in works proceeding using inappropriate materials and levels of intervention that are inconsistent with retention of authenticity. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to place a moratorium on further major interventions and to engage in a technical exchange and dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding an appropriate conservation approach. Essential emergency stabilization or conservation work, including works to Abu Dulaf Mosque and Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya, should adhere to the principles of minimal intervention and should only be undertaken in critical cases where there is threat of further accelerated damage and collapse. The State Party should also be requested to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned or ongoing projects which may have a negative impact on the OUV of the property, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. For major projects, this information should include Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in conformity with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

The proposed school construction project, located within the buffer zone of the property, should be reconsidered, having regard to the conclusions and recommendations of the 2023 ICOMOS technical review, with an initial focus of documenting and analysing the findings.

Although there has been some engagement with UNESCO regarding capacity building and enhancing the preservation, management and sustainability of World Heritage properties during 2024, the State Party has advised that the current context is not conducive to establishing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). It is therefore recommended to encourage the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the process once conditions allow.

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

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.37

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision 46 COM 7A.17, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the implementation of some recommendations of the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, including the establishment of an onsite management unit, and <u>urges</u> the State Party to pursue the implementation of the framework it had established towards this end, particularly with regard to surveys, documentation, assessments and conservation planning;
- 4. <u>Notes</u> the ongoing monitoring of encroachments by the State Party and the information that has been submitted, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to provide a detailed report, containing a map, on all identified and potential encroachments;
- 5. <u>Reiterating its concern</u> for the condition of the property, particularly with regard to its damaged and deteriorated state arising from the impact of encroachment, urban sprawl and bulldozing activities, in addition to natural deterioration and weathering, <u>also urges</u> the State Party to give priority to previously-recommended actions related to detailed documentation and assessment of threats and damage;
- 6. <u>Reiterates its request</u> to the State Party that interventions be addressed within the framework of an overall assessment of damage and risks, and that a comprehensive Conservation Plan be prepared in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, while in the meantime, any emergency stabilization or conservation work, including works to Abu Dulaf Mosque and Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya, should adhere to the principles of minimal intervention and only be undertaken in critical cases where there is threat of further accelerated damage and collapse;
- 7. <u>Expresses regret</u> that multiple major restoration projects did not proceed according to the findings of technical reviews undertaken by ICOMOS and the recommendations of the 2023 mission, including at the Great Mosque, Caliphal Palace, Al Hir, and Bab al'Amma, and <u>also requests</u> the State Party to place a moratorium on further major interventions and to engage in a technical exchange and dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding an appropriate conservation approach at the property, which is focused on retention of authenticity and support for Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- 8. <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to reconsider the proposed school construction project, located within the buffer zone of the property, having regard to the conclusions and recommendations of the 2023 ICOMOS technical review, with an initial focus on documenting and analysing the findings;
- 9. <u>Further urges</u> the State Party to continue to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned and ongoing works, including for major restoration interventions, which may have an impact on the authenticity and OUV of the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for any major projects, and to do so before making any decisions that will be difficult to reverse;

- 10. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the process for establishing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with related corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, as soon as conditions allow;
- 11. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 12. <u>Decides</u> to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

38. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

39. Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

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

- State of critical conservation conditions and need for emergency stabilisation measures
- Vulnerability to potential inappropriate developments
- Lack of management structure

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

Corrective measures identified

In progress

<u>Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures</u> In progress

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1702/documents/

International Assistance Requests approved: 0 Total amount approved: USD 0 For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1702/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount: USD 34,940 from the World Heritage Fund budget line dedicated to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger; USD 224,514 from the Getty Foundation for the development of a Conservation Management Plan

Previous monitoring missions

June 2024: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Local conditions affecting physical fabric (state of critical conservation conditions and need for emergency stabilisation measures)
- Management and institutional factors (lack of management structure, lack of defined buffer zone, lack of adequate financial resources)
- Buildings and Development (Vulnerability to potential inappropriate developments)
- Management systems/ management plan

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1702/

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2025, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1702/documents/. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The geographical coordinates of the boundaries of the property are being verified and will be submitted for approval;
- Due to the security situation that affected Lebanon in 2024, no actions have been accomplished with regard to developing detailed land-use and zoning guidelines for the property and its surroundings;
- The lack of sufficient human and financial resources for managing entities (Board and Administration) restricts ability to intervene at the Fair;
- A documentation and detailed inventory process has been initiated focused on the Administrative Building and the Fire Station, in partnership with the Centre for Restoration and Conservation of the Lebanese University. Additionally, the property will be included in the QGIS platform for condition assessment, developed by the Directorate General for Antiquities (DGA) in collaboration with the UNESCO Beirut Office;
- No progress has been reported regarding digitalization of archives;
- Capacity building on Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is planned for June 2025. Any project at the property or its buffer zone should be approved by the Ministry of Culture, which will request an HIA;
- A five-year agreement has been signed with the Niemeyer Heritage Foundation, to propose a pilot rehabilitation project for the Experimental Theatre (Dome), for which an HIA will be submitted;
- A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was undertaken in June 2024;
- The Conservation Management Plan (CMP), initiated by the UNESCO Beirut Office in 2019, has been completed and presented to the public;
- A legal dispute has led to the closure of the Minjara project, housed in the partly restored Guest House;
- The State Party participated in the regional workshop on the List of World Heritage in Danger, organised by ICESCO and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), in partnership with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
- Areas of the Fair, especially the Grand Canopy, remain in use;
- Structural instability threatens the Water Tower roof. The ceiling of the Open-Air Theatre is in need of repair;
- In November 2024, Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli was granted provisional enhanced protection under the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Decision **4 EXT.COM 4.25**).

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

In its report, the State Party has referred to the requests previously made by the World Heritage Committee, which is welcome. The State Party has initiated a documentation database and participated in a training on the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) process, while the HIA training, initially planned for 2024, has been postponed to June 2025. The challenging security situation in 2024 hindered substantial progress. In November 2024, the property was provisionally inscribed on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection.

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property from 3 to 7 June 2024 (report available at: <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1702/documents/</u>). It is important that State Party initiates implementation of the mission's recommendations, with priority given to urgent measures.

The mission identified the structures at imminent risk, comprising the roof (umbrella) of the Water Tower, the soffit of the Open-Air Theatre and the fascia of the Grand Canopy. Urgent stabilization actions have been recommended, including repairing the defunct rainwater run-off system and defective waterproofing. Archival research and on-site investigation are needed to trace the design and location of the original rainwater system and its condition. The mission also emphasized the importance of promptly initiating on-site training in historic concrete repairs.

The designation of the Fair as a nationally protected heritage remains a priority. The property's boundaries and future buffer zone should be clearly defined, in coordination with the two municipalities, alongside conducting updates of the Master Plans. The mission also reviewed the CMP and recommended its integration into the management system with an action plan. Longer-term conservation depends on rehabilitating and completing the Fair's structures for future use and creating a self-sufficient operational environment with a fully functioning management system. The State Party's intention to reconstitute the Board is welcome, and should consider the mission's recommendations on Board composition, staffing structure, and the inclusion of an expert in conservation and heritage management, as well as a DGA representative. It is also recommended to create an Advisory entity to engage with professional and academic organizations, as well as civil society. A Management Plan should be developed with a clear vision and strategy for conservation, development, and operation. It should include short-, medium-, and long-term conservation actions, documentation of interventions, and a cyclical inspection and maintenance plan.

The announced HIA for the Experimental Theatre (Dome)'s rehabilitation is welcome and should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS, in addition to any project proposals that may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

The Reactive Monitoring mission report proposes a DSOCR, including corrective measures and a timeframe for implementation. The State Party should review and augment these suggestions as necessary, and submit the DSOCR, corrective measures and timeframe to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS.

Key challenges for the property include financial resources and conservation knowledge. The Committee may wish to call for increased international support to provide financial and technical assistance to the State Party in implementing the short- and medium-term conservation measures.

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

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.39

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision 46 COM 7A.19, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Taking note</u> of the State Party's efforts to enhance the protection of the property, and initiate documentation, <u>acknowledges</u> that the challenging security situation in 2024 hindered substantial progress;

- 4. <u>Takes note</u> of the provisional inscription of the property on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection, under the mechanism established by the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Decision **4 EXT.COM 4.25**);
- 5. <u>Notes</u> that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in June 2024, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the mission report, particularly to urgently:
 - a) Stabilize the umbrella of the Water Tower, the soffit of the Open-Air Theatre and the fascia of the Grand Canopy, in conjunction with capacity building on original concrete repairs,
 - b) Undertake archival research and on-site investigations into the rainwater run-off system, and implement emergency measures to reinstate a functioning rainwater run-off system,
 - c) Designate the Fair as a nationally protected heritage, defining its boundaries and future buffer zone by providing exact coordinates, and updating accordingly the Master Plans with detailed land use and architectural guidelines,
 - d) Integrate the Conservation Management Plan into the management system by developing and implementing an action plan,
 - e) Establish a functioning management structure for the property, that also includes representatives from the cultural heritage protection institutions, professionals and academic organizations, and civil society, as outlined in further detail in the mission report;
- 6. <u>Also requests</u> that a Management Plan be developed to reflect the management strategy for conservation, development, and operation, to clarify short-, medium-, and long-term conservation actions, include the documentation of interventions, and establish a cyclical inspection and maintenance plan;
- 7. <u>Welcomes</u> the initiative to rehabilitate the Experimental Theatre (Dome) as a pilot project for the property, and <u>further requests</u> that the project details, including its Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as well as any project proposals that may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value;
- 8. <u>Requests furthermore</u> the State Party to review, and augment as needed, the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation, contained in the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission report, and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
- 9. <u>Calls</u> for increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party to implement the short- and medium-term measures aimed at improving the state of conservation of the property and <u>invites</u> the State Party to submit proposals for International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund;
- 10. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 11. <u>Decides</u> to retain Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

40. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

41. Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

42. Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

43. Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

44. Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

<u>Criteria</u> (iii)

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

<u>Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Conflict situation prevailing in the country

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

<u>Corrective measures identified</u> Not yet identified

<u>Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures</u> Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/documents/

International Assistance Requests approved: 0 Total amount approved: USD 0 For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: June 2020, Netherlands Funds in Trust: USD 49,620 for Strengthening national capacities for the elaboration of corrective measures for Libyan World Heritage properties.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Vandalism
 - Deliberate destruction of heritage
 - Human Resources
 - Conflict situation prevailing in the country
 - Illegal activities
 - Management System/Management Plan: Absence of management plan

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/287/

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024).

No recent information on the state of conservation of the property is available.

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

It is regrettable that no updated information on the state of conservation of the property has been provided since February 2020. Thus, it is recommended that the Committee continue expressing its concern about the lack of relevant information and reiterate its previous requests to the State Party. Among these requests is the necessity to pursue efforts to conserve the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as well as the provision of information through the World Heritage Centre regarding any future major restoration or new projects that may affect the property's OUV, including in relation to the rehabilitation of the fort at Alawenat, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The ongoing absence of a comprehensive Management Plan should be addressed. Therefore, it is recommended to continue encouraging the State Party to pursue this task and to seek the necessary technical and financial support.

The pending joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission is essential and should be conducted once conditions allow evaluating the state of conservation of the property. Meanwhile, it would be important for the State Party to initiate the process of developing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), along with a set of corrective measures, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Therefore, it is urgent that the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, initiates the development of the retrospective Statement of OUV (SOUV), for its examination by the World Heritage Committee, also as a basis for the DSOCR. To expedite the process, the DSOCR and the RSOUV could be developed in a coordinated manner within the same timeframe.

The Committee may wish to reiterate its call for increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party to pursue urgent conservation activities, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of Libyan cultural property.

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

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,

- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision 46 COM 7A.24 adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Regrets</u> that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 46th session, and <u>continues to express</u> <u>its concern</u> about the absence of relevant updated information;
- 4. <u>Urges</u> the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in close coordination with local communities and civil society;
- 5. <u>Reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the evolution of the situation at the property and any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, including the provision of detailed information on the rehabilitation of the fort at Alawenat, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 6. <u>Invites again</u> the State Party to continue pursuing the elaboration of a Management Plan for the property, seeking the necessary technical and financial support for its completion, and allocating the necessary resources for its implementation;
- 7. <u>Recalls</u> the invitation by the State Party for the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and <u>encourages</u> it to take place as soon as conditions permit;
- 8. <u>Also urges</u> the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a draft retrospective Statement of OUV, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 9. <u>Further urges</u> the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
- 10. <u>Continues to call</u> for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
- 11. <u>Reiterates its appeal</u> to all States Parties to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property from Libya as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;
- 12. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 13. <u>Decides</u> to retain Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

45. Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine)

46. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (State of Palestine)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

47. Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer (State of Palestine)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

48. Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

<u>Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Destruction as well as ascertained and potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria that started in March 2011.

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

<u>Corrective measures identified</u> Not yet identified

<u>Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures</u> Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents/

<u>International Assistance</u> Requests approved: 3 (from 1986-2023) Total amount approved: USD 80,250 For details, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/assistance/</u>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 195,255 by the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 200,000 euros by the Italian Government; for built, movable and intangible heritage: 2.46 million euros by the European Union, USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government, 63,000 euros by the Austrian Government, USD 200,000 by the German Government; for cultural heritage under conflict: USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain; USD 100,000 by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage (ALIPH).

Previous monitoring missions

January 2017: UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission, February 2023: UNESCO Rapid Assessment mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports Before the conflict:

• Legal framework (Lack of definition of the buffer zone)

- Management System/ Management Plan (Lack of conservation and/or management plans)
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system (Inappropriate restoration works)
- Housing (Urban encroachment)

Since March 2011:

- Armed conflict (Destruction and damage due to the armed conflict)
- Earthquake (February 2023 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks)
- Management System/ Management Plan (Need for a Reconstruction and Recovery Master Plan)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2025, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21/documents/</u> and include an introduction clarifying that:

- 8 December 2024 marks the end of the devastating conflict that started in 2011. Public institutions are overseen by a provisional government and employees of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) have resumed work;
- The cumulative impacts of years of conflict, compounded by the devastating earthquake of February 2023, have dramatically increased the need for support in preserving Syria's cultural heritage.

The report also provides updated information on progress in a number of conservation issues at the property, as follows:

- No violations or other damage have been reported during the November/December 2024 events; however, the implementation of several projects funded by international organizations, has been interrupted;
- In September 2024, four heritage suqs (al-Hadadin, al-Hibal, al-Saqatiyya and al-Ahamadiyya) reopened following rehabilitation, while restoration works are ongoing at three others, contributing to the broader goal of revitalizing all 37 historic suqs, which sustain approximately 24 traditional Syrian crafts;
- Stabilization and restoration of structures affected by the 2023 earthquake has been carried out with support from UNESCO, the Aga Khan Cultural Services – Syria, the Government of Oman and the Syrian Ministry of Tourism. These include works at the minaret of the Citadel's Mosque, Throne Hall, Entrance complex, defence towers and walls, as well as at Khan al-Sabun and Khan al-Gumrok, Madrasa al-Halawiyya and al-Shathbakhtiyya, Bayt Ghazaleh and Bayt Ajiqbash;
- With the support of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) and an international expert, the development of a Recovery Master Plan has proceeded, the Executive Summary of which is annexed to the State Party report. In 2024, consultation occurred with key stakeholders to define priorities, address legal challenges, and formulate regulations for Aleppo's long-term recovery, ensuring the preservation of its historic urban fabric and ensuring a sustainable living environment for the local community.

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

The information provided in the State Party's report demonstrates the efforts undertaken with international partners to repair major monuments affected by the 2023 earthquake, including information on efforts to stabilize and consolidate the original fabric and architectural details, and using matching stone in repair and reconstruction works, as well as associated rehabilitation works aimed at the revival of economic life of the city. However, information about major restoration works and conservation programmes should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are made, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and previous Committee decisions. Information has not been submitted regarding the proposed adaptation of the al-Rushdi al-Askari school of military education to become a four-star hotel, as requested in Decision **46 COM 7A.27**. The State Party report does not include a systematic response to the Committee's previous requests in Decision **46 COM 7A.27**.

The initiation of a Recovery Master Plan for the property, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, is welcome. Continually requested by the Committee since 2019 as a priority, once finalized, this Plan would represent a crucial step towards planning long-term recovery activities and ensuring streamlined coordination of efforts among relevant stakeholders. The Executive Summary of the Plan sets out its objectives: to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants, address governance, and enhance visitor experience. The Recovery Master Plan is intended to build on conservation and management principes aligned with the property's World Heritage status, but the Executive Summary does not acknowledge the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, nor the associated processes under the Operational Guidelines. Further elaboration of the Recovery Master Plan is required to embody the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and to incorporate the yet-to-be-prepared Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures. These matters may be progressed through a stakeholder consultation meeting which is planned in June 2025.

In March 2025, the World Heritage Centre received an invitation for a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property. It is crucial that this mission is undertaken as soon as feasible, in order to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and support the development of a DSOCR, along with the associated set of corrective measures and timeline for implementation. The mission should also provide advice on the evolving content of the Recovery Master Plan.

No information was provided on the creation of a buffer zone, previously requested in 2021. It is recommended that the Committee recall again the need to submit a minor boundary modification proposal to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, should any buffer zone delineation be agreed upon by stakeholders.

UNESCO is mobilizing for the recovery of Syria in its fields of expertise, including for the recovery World Heritage properties. In particular, revitalization of this property, would contribute to the economic recovery and promotion of livelihood opportunities for local communities, through a holistic and integrated approach.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.48

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision **46 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Taking note</u> of the efforts made to stabilize and restore major monuments affected by the 2023 earthquake and to revive economic life in the city, <u>reiterates its encouragement</u> to all stakeholders to continue their efforts towards the recovery of the property;
- 4. <u>Welcomes</u> the initiation of the Recovery Master Plan, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to undertake further elaboration to embody the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and to incorporate the yet-to-be-prepared Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures, and <u>also requests</u> that a draft version of the Plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its approval and implementation;
- 5. <u>Reminds</u> the State Party of its obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in decisions of the Committee, and in that regard, <u>reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to submit information regarding the proposed adaptation of al-Rushdi al-Askari school of military education to become a four-star hotel, to the World Heritage Centre, and more generally, to submit information on major projects, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in

accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are made;

- 6. <u>Calls again</u> on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures at the property, contributing to economic recovery and promoting livelihood opportunities for local communities;
- 7. <u>Also reiterates its encouragement</u> to the State Party to initiate, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the elaboration of the DSOCR, with a set of corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation;
- 8. <u>Also taking note</u> of the invitation by the State Party, <u>further requests</u> that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place as soon as feasible, in order to carry out an overall assessment of the state of conservation of the property, support the development of the DSOCR and associated corrective measures, and provide advice on the evolving content of the Recovery Master Plan;
- 9. <u>Noting</u> the previously reported regulation for the creation of a buffer zone, <u>further</u> <u>reiterates its encouragement</u> to the State Party to submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2026**, in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by ICOMOS;
- 10. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 11. <u>Decides</u> to retain Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

49. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

50. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)

51. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

<u>Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Destruction as well as ascertained and potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria that started in March 2011

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

<u>Corrective measures identified</u> Not yet identified

<u>Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures</u> Not yet identified

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2007) Total amount approved: USD 30,000 For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 200,000 euros by the Italian Government; for built, movable and intangible heritage: 2.46 million euros by the European Union, USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government, 63,000 euros by the Austrian Government, USD 200,000 by the German Government; for cultural heritage under conflict: USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain.

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to this World Heritage property

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Legal framework (Protection Policy does not adequately integrate cultural landscapes)
- Financial resources
- Human resources
- Housing (Development or infrastructure projects)
- Management System/Management Plan (Management Plan still incomplete and lack of an Action Plan)

Since March 2011:

- Armed conflict (destruction and damage due to the armed conflict)
- Illegal activities (use of ancient stones as building material, illegal constructions and excavations, use of the sites by internally displaced people)
- Military training (use of the sites by armed groups)
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Quarrying
- Land conversion
- Earthquake (February 2023 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2025, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/documents/</u> and include an introduction clarifying that:

- 8 December 2024 marks the end of the devastating conflict that started in 2011. Public institutions are overseen by a provisional government and employees of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) have resumed work;
- The cumulative impacts of years of conflict, compounded by the devastating earthquake of February 2023, have dramatically increased the need for support in preserving Syria's cultural heritage.

The report also provides an update on the state of conservation of the property, as follows:

- While the sites of Serjilla, Jeradeh and Ruweiha in Jebel Zawiyeh remain inaccessible due to landmines, most of the archaeological parks are currently accessible;
- Several villages in Jebel Sem'an, Jebel Zawiyeh, Jebel al-A'la and Jebel Barisha have been damaged to varying degrees, by illegal activities, unauthorized developments and the 2023 earthquake, which has resulted in structural instability in some cases. Damage has been caused by illicit excavations, vandalism, use of stones from the archaeological sites as building material, new roads, illegal constructions, clearing of lands for agricultural purposes, shelling, targeted shooting and the use of the sites for military purposes. Archaeological structures have also been repurposed for housing and livestock;
- Despite the reported damage and threats, some sites and landscapes have remained largely preserved.

The United Nations Satellite Centre at the United Nations Information and Research Centre (UNITAR) analysed satellite images of October and December 2024. Within the eight archaeological parks, 1,066 instances of damage were observed: with 505 instances being destroyed, 131 with severe damage and 430 with moderate damage. A further 2,160 instances of possible damage were observed. A total of 45% of destroyed instances are located in the Archaeological Park of Jebel Sem'an (Qal'at Sem'an), while 66% of the severe damage instances are located in the Archaeological Park of Jebel Zawiyeh (Rouweiha).

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

The report provided by the State Party confirms previously reported damage at the property, which has worsened in several locations. These include the use of stones from the archaeological sites as building material, new roads, illegal constructions, illegal excavation, clearing of lands for agricultural purposes, and the use of the sites for military purposes. Damage resulting from the 2023 earthquake has also been reported.

Now that the component elements of the property are mostly accessible, it is important to initiate a detailed assessment of the damage to identify emergency measures and priority actions aimed at preventing further damage and loss. It is recommended to encourage the State Party to also initiate activities aimed to raise awareness among the communities living in and in the vicinity of the property, about the need to preserve and protect it. The Committee could call for the international community to support these activities.

In March 2025, the World Heritage Centre received an invitation for a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property. It is highly desirable that this mission is undertaken as soon as feasible, in order to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and support the development of a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), along with the associated set of corrective measures and timeline for implementation. However, in light of the potential presence of landmines at the sites of Serjilla, Jeradeh and Ruweiha in Jebel Zawiyeh, and given the need to schedule missions to all six World Heritage properties in Syria, it is suggested that a detailed damage assessment be initiated as far as possible, with the mission to occur following an initial mission to other Syrian World Heritage properties.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.51

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision 46 COM 7A.30, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Takes note</u> of the information provided on the state of conservation of the property, including reported extensive damage during the period of conflict, and <u>expresses its</u> <u>concern</u> about the current situation of several components of the property, where previously reported damage appears to have worsened;
- 4. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to carry out a detailed and systematic condition assessment of the property in order to identify emergency measures and priority actions to be undertaken to prevent further damage and loss, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to carry out awareness raising activities for communities, living in or in the vicinity of the property, about the need to preserve and protect it;
- 5. <u>Calls upon</u> the international community to support efforts aimed at the conservation of the property, and <u>reiterates its appeal</u> to all State Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of 2017;
- 6. <u>Taking note</u> of the invitation by the State Party that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to ensure its conservation and protection, <u>requests</u> that detailed condition assessments be initiated as far as possible before scheduling such a Reactive Monitoring mission, and following an initial mission to other Syrian World Heritage properties;
- 7. <u>Also encourages</u> the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to initiate the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) with a set of corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation;
- 8. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
- 9. <u>Decides</u> to retain Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

52. Crac des chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

<u>Criteria</u> (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2013-present

<u>Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Destruction as well as ascertained and potential threats consequent to the armed conflict in Syria that started in March 2011

<u>Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Adopted, see <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8207/</u>

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8207/

<u>Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures</u> Adopted by the World Heritage Committee, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8207</u>

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1998-2020) Total amount approved: USD 65,000 For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the six Syrian World Heritage properties: 200,000 Euros by the Italian Government; for built, movable and intangible heritage: 2.46 million Euros by the European Union, USD 170,000 by the Flemish Government, 63,000 Euros by the Austrian Government, USD 200,000 by the German Government; for cultural heritage under conflict: USD 200,000 by the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain; USD 139,609 from the World Heritage Fund budget line dedicated to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Previous monitoring missions

Since the start of the conflict in March 2011, the security situation has not allowed any missions to be undertaken to this World Heritage property.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Before the conflict:

- Management System/Management Plan (Lack of conservation and/or management plans)
- Management activities (Inappropriate restoration works)
- Housing (Urban encroachment)
- Quarrying (Exploitation of quarries within the perimeter of World Heritage propertiy)

Since March 2011:

- Armed conflict (destruction and damage due to the armed conflict)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (cable car project at Qal'at Salah El-Din) (issue resolved)
- Earthquake (February 2023 earthquake and subsequent aftershocks)
- Methodology for repair and reconstruction, including works to Stables at Crac des Chevaliers

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/

Current conservation issues

On 26 January 2025, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports for the six Syrian World Heritage properties, which are available at <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1229/documents/</u> and include an introduction clarifying that:

- 8 December 2024 marks the end of the devastating conflict that started in 2011. Public institutions are overseen by a provisional government and employees of the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) have resumed work;
- The cumulative impacts of years of conflict, compounded by the devastating earthquake of February 2023, have dramatically increased the need for support in preserving Syria's cultural heritage.

The report also provides updated information on progress in a number of conservation issues at the property, as follows:

- At Crac des Chevaliers, restoration works were carried at six structures impacted by the 2023 earthquake (Towers 47, 137 and 147, Buildings 32a and 51 and Gate 3a) through the collaborative efforts of the DGAM, the Saint Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee, the Hungary Helps program and the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage (ALIPH);
- The Ministry of Tourism supported the insulation of the southern stable roof, as well as the reinforcement of a pillar to secure the visitation route;
- The Syrian Hungarian mission continued historical and archaeological studies and worked on the Chapel's frescoes and castle 3D documentation, which required vegetation removal. The team completed the assessment of the water drainage system in the inner courtyard west of the church, and, in addition, supported by a Hungarian geologist, the team also assessed and documented the earthquake damage to several Crusader fortifications along the Syrian coast;
- At Qal'at Salah El-Din, restoration works were also carried out to address the impacts of the earthquake at the eastern curtain wall between the two circular towers, including site clearance, removal of degraded mortar, stone and mortar replacement, and insertion of some steel rods as reinforcement.

In addition, on 8 November 2024, the State Party provided a report, which included a map, identifying the 20 cases of damage incurred by the conflict and the 10 cases of damage caused by the 2023 earthquake at the Crac des Chevaliers, along with progress on execution of interventions, supported by numerous illustrations. The State Party also submitted a separate Comprehensive Report on post-conflict and post-earthquake treatments at Crac des Chevaliers, providing details of the nature and extent of works undertaken. A standard coding and identification system has been adopted for identification of elements, and identification and assessment of damage, within the Crac des Chevaliers site, with a system developed to prioritize works, a comprehensive set of intervention methodologies identified and preferential use of original or identical materials for repair and reconstruction. The restoration works programme is reversible, has not impacted on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and has engendered a spirit of responsibility for cultural heritage among Syrian youth and the local community.

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

The reports submitted by the State Party indicate substantive progress made in the physical restoration of Crac des Chevaliers, particularly addressing the damage caused by the 2023 earthquake, arising from collaborative work with partners and additional funding provided by ALIPH. This process accords with the Committee's encouragement to the State Party to establish strategic partnerships and seek international support for the conservation of the property. However, in conformity with previous Committee decisions and Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party should again be encouraged to provide prior notification of major works, including conservation programmes to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to proceeding. It would be appropriate to receive more detailed information on the progress made regarding all emergency structural interventions that have been implemented at Qal'at Salah El-Din, similar to the information provided for Crac de Chevaliers.

By Decision **45 COM 7A.44** in 2023, the Committee adopted the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures. The State Party report, although outlining a range of positive projects and initiatives, does not include a systematic response to the Committee's previous requests in Decision **46 COM 7A.31**, to report to the World Heritage Centre by providing a table that sets out evidence for each corrective measure that has been implemented. The State Party should also be reminded again of the need to address and report on each of the Committee's decisions. In order to facilitate achievement of the corrective measures, the State Party should also consider prioritising complete reinstatement of the

property's protection within its setting and a management system with enhanced collaboration with the local community. This can be achieved through studies and consultation to determine priorities for the removal of illegal constructions within the buffer zone of Crac des Chevaliers, and the update of the minor boundary modification proposal for Qal'at Salah El-Din, as previously requested by the Committee in Decisions **45 COM 8B.67** and **46 COM 7A.31**.

In March 2025, the World Heritage Centre received an invitation for a Reactive Monitoring mission to the property. This mission should occur as soon as feasible, in order to assess the overall state of conservation of the property as well as the progress made towards the achievement of the DSOCR.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.52

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision 46 COM 7A.31, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the collaborative efforts undertaken with partners at Crac des Chevaliers, which have addressed damage incurred as result of the 2023 earthquake;
- 4. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to provide clear documentation on the work undertaken for the restoration of Qal'at Salah El-Din, similar to the information submitted in November 2024 for Crac des Chevaliers, and <u>reminds</u> the State Party of its obligation to submit documentation of proposed projects, including major conservation works, to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to works commencing or other irreversible decisions, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 5. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to further progress towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in relation to protection and management, and notably by addressing and systematically reporting on the following corrective measures:
 - a) Damaged structures at Crac des Chevaliers are restored; those not yet restored should be at least planned appropriately,
 - b) All emergency structural interventions are implemented at Qal'at Salah El-Din,
 - c) Cooperation with the local community is strengthened for an enhanced protection at both component sites,
 - d) Challenges in the buffer zone are addressed, notably a damage assessment is carried out and emergency measures are defined in the buffer zone of Crac des Chevaliers and the boundaries of the buffer zone of Qal'at Salah El-Din are redefined, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Committee in its Decision **45 COM 8B.67**,
 - e) A study and consultations are carried out to set criteria and priorities for the removal of illegal constructions within the buffer zone of Crac des Chevaliers;
- 6. <u>Also reminds</u> the State Party of its obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in decisions of the Committee;
- 7. <u>Taking note</u> of the invitation by the State Party, <u>requests</u> that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place as soon as feasible, in order to carry out an overall assessment of the state of conservation of the property and the progress made towards the achievement of the DSOCR;

8. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;

9. <u>Decides</u> to retain Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

53. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

54. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

55. Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

56. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add

57. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen)