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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

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

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

<u>Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda</u>: Establishment of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage in Danger

8B. Nominations to the World Heritage List

Summary

This Addendum is divided into three parts:

- Part I Examination of nominations referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee
- Part II Examination of minor boundary modifications of natural, mixed and cultural properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List
- **Part III** Statements of Outstanding Universal Value of properties inscribed at previous sessions and not adopted by the World Heritage Committee.

Decisions required:

The Committee is requested to examine the Draft Decisions presented in this Document, and, in accordance with Paragraph 153 of the Operational Guidelines, take its Decisions concerning inscription on the World Heritage List in the following four categories:

- (a) properties which it inscribes on the World Heritage List;
- (b) properties which it decides not to inscribe on the World Heritage List;
- (c) properties whose consideration is referred;
- (d) properties whose consideration is deferred.

- 1. In this working document, the referred nomination and the minor boundary modifications are presented within the natural, mixed and cultural categories in English alphabetical and regional order: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 2. In the text below, ICOMOS Recommendations and IUCN Recommendations are presented in the form of Draft Decisions and are based on documents WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add (ICOMOS) and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2.Add (IUCN). Though the Draft Decisions are based on IUCN and ICOMOS Recommendations, in some cases few modifications were required to adapt them to this document.

Disclaimer

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I. EXAMINATION OF NOMINATIONS REFERRED BACK BY PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Property	The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá
ID. N°	1582 rev
State Party	Panama
Criteria proposed by State Party	(ii)(iv)(vi)

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.33

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add.
- 2. <u>Inscribes</u> **The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá, Panama**, first phase of a two-phase serial nomination, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria** (ii) and (iv);
- 3. <u>Adopts</u> the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

From the 16th century, the isthmus of Panama in Central America, became a global strategic geopolitical asset facilitating the transportation of goods and people between the Iberian Peninsula and the colonies of the Kingdom of Spain in South and North America, the archipelago of the Philippines and the Canary Islands. The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá bears testimony of the crossing of the isthmus including strategic fortified settlements, historic towns, archaeological sites and parts of the roads that were used to connect the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean until the mid-18th century. Camino de Cruces, one of the itineraries used for crossing the isthmus, is the direct antecedent of the 19th century Panama Railroad and the Panama Canal, which opened in 1914.

The use of the route goes back to pre-colonial times and the series includes a defensive system that protected travellers from the frequent actions of crime, robbery and attacks of pirates, buccaneers and other perils motivated by the invaluable treasures transported or stored in strategic locations.

Criterion (ii): The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá, constructed as part of the process of colonisation of the Americas, played a significant role in the establishment of a global communication system that facilitated the exchange of goods between the Iberian Peninsula and the colonies of the Kingdom of Spain in South and North America, the archipelago of the Philippines and the Canary Islands. This process resulted in the interchange of ideas, skills, and traditions between different populations, including Indigenous Peoples, enslaved Africans and European colonisers. This process, which was not a peaceful one, lasted over three centuries and was centred on the expansion of the hegemony of the Kingdom of Spain, which strongly influenced and marked the history and further development of the Americas.

Criterion (iv): The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá demonstrates an outstanding example of a route enabling transcontinental flows of culture, resources and colonial power during a crucial stage in the history of the Americas. The location of historic port cities, fortifications and roads reflects the emergence of a colonial territorial approach that adapted and made use of challenging climatic and geographic conditions, as well as, indigenous and local knowledge, for the development of a communication and commercial system which had global impacts.

Integrity

In spite of disruptions, the first phase of The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá demonstrates the integrity that allows to understand clearly the crossing of the Isthmus. The selected component parts and their settings help to show the overall integrity of the route. Although The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá lost its original functionality, it kept functional integrity based on re-use by miners crossing the Isthmus towards California with the Panama Railroad and by means of inspiring the modern infrastructure of the Panama Canal.

While the integrity of component parts within Panama City is vulnerable to urban development pressures, the buffer zones and urban regulations, together with a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism recently adopted should ensure the protection and safeguarding of the property as a whole and its urban component parts in particular.

Authenticity

The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá is the result of a historic process of over 500 years which includes the transformation of the heritage route. This represents a continuity in the use of the route, preserving the spirit of crossing the isthmus through modernisation.

Even though the authenticity of the setting of Historic Centre of Panama has been compromised by the development of Cinta Costera, and in Archaeological site of Panama Viejo with high-rise buildings impacting on sightlines, built heritage in Casco Antiguo and archaeological heritage in Panamá Viejo provide continuity to its historical urban fabric and bear witness to the process of settling in the Americas during European colonisation.

Protection and management requirements

Legal protection of the property is provided by national and local government laws for the protection of natural and cultural heritage. A new General Law of Culture has been passed (Law 175 of 3 November 2020) which covers the component parts of the Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo (005), the Historic District of Panamá (006) and the Castle of San Lorenzo (001). The Law No. 456 adopted in November 2024 declares the Colonial Transisthmian Route as one cultural heritage property. Furthermore, the legal protection and management of the three sections of the Camino de Cruces (component parts 002 to 004) is based on the legislation covering the two National Parks and the Protected Forest and Protected Landscape in which they are situated.

Several Ministries (mainly Culture and Environment), national and local entities, as well as the Canal Authority are responsible for planning and coordinating different aspects of the management of the property. Therefore, coordination and shared actions are undertaken. The Comité de la Ruta Colonial Transístmica de Panamá (Committee for the Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá) has been created as the Governmental Management Authority, that is in charge of implementing the management plan of the serial property.

Different means for the improvement of the systematic monitoring of cultural and natural properties are being prepared. Regulations for Heritage Impact Assessments have been elaborated and approved, strengthening the management system and should be operationalised considering capacity building to relevant actors on this procedure and the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Commitment of financially supporting the conservation of the whole property as part of the policy of the State for the conservation of heritage has been made.

A specific-tourism plan and interpretation strategy are to be completed in the short term to enable the adequate visitation presenting the heritage route as a whole based on its Outstanding Universal Value.

4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

- a) Developing a property-specific tourism plan and interpretation strategy that would be inclusive of diverse rightsholders and stakeholders' participation and relevant narratives,
- b) Enhancing and strengthening the role of residents, local communities, Indigenous Peoples and other rightsholders and stakeholders in the management system of the serial property,
- c) Operationalising the Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism adopted in February 2025 with central consideration to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,
- d) Continuing efforts to develop national capacity building for national officers, heritage practitioners, developers, and relevant stakeholders on the Heritage Impact Assessment procedure,
- e) Continuing the conservation works in all component parts including those proposed for Phase 2,
- f) Continuing research works for all component parts including those proposed for Phase 2.
- g) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of Operational Guidelines;
- 5. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2026**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

II. EXAMINATION OF MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES ALREADY INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

MINOR BOUNDARY MODIFICATIONS PROPOSED FOR EXAMINATION

Alphabetical Summary Table and Index of Recommendations by ICOMOS and IUCN to the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee

State Party	World Heritage property	ID	No.	Recommendation
	NATURAL PROPERTIES			
Croatia	Plitvice Lakes National Park	98	ter	OK
Ecuador	Galápagos Islands	1	ter	NA
South Africa	Cape Floral Region Protected Areas	1007	ter	OK
	CULTURAL PROPERTIES			
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	City of Potosí	420	bis	OK
Bulgaria	Boyana Church	42	bis	OK
Bulgaria	Madara Rider	43	bis	OK
Bulgaria	Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari	359	bis	OK
Czechia	Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape	763	bis	OK
France	Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France	868	bis	OK
France	Fortifications of Vauban	1283	bis	R
France	Palace and Park of Fontainebleau	160	bis	OK
France	Arles, Roman and Romanesque Monuments	164	bis	OK
India	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana	1570	bis	OK - R
Italy	Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia	825	quater	OK
Italy	Via Appia. Regina Viarum	1708	bis	NA
Italy	Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato	1390	bis	R
Panama	Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo	135	bis	R
Saudi Arabia	Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia	1472	bis	R
Ukraine	The Historic Centre of Odesa	1703	bis	R

KEY

OK Approval recommended

R Referral

NA Approval not recommended

A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

A.1 AFRICA

Property	Cape Floral Region Protected Areas
ID. N°	1007 ter
State Party	South Africa

See the 2025 IUCN Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decisions 28 COM 14B.12, 35 COM 8E, 39 COM 8B.2, 44 COM 7B.84 adopted at its 28th (Suzhou, 2004), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 39th (Bonn, 2015) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of the **Cape Floral Region Protected Areas**, **South Africa**;
- 4. <u>Recommends</u> that the State Party include the area managed by the South African National Defence Force, adjacent to the Bokkeriviere Nature Reserve, as part of the buffer zone of the property to ensure connectivity between the component parts of the Hexriver Complex.

A.2 EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Property	Plitvice Lakes National Park
ID. N°	98 ter
State Party	Croatia

See the 2025 IUCN Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.35

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add, WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decisions 03 COM XII.46, 24 COM XA.3, 36 COM 8D, 40 COM 8D, 43 COM 8E and 44 COM 7B.103 adopted at its 3rd (Luxor, 1979), 24th (Cairns, 2000), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,
- 3. Approves the minor boundary modification of the Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia.

A.3 LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Property	Galápagos Islands
ID. N°	1 ter
State Party	Ecuador

See the 2025 IUCN Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2.Add.
- 2. Recalling Decisions 02 COM VIII.38, 18 COM XI, 19 COM VIII.A.4, 25 COM XB, 31 COM 8C.11, 34 COM 8C.3, 37 COM 8E and 45 COM 7B.67 adopted at its 2nd (Washington, D.C, 1978), 18th (Phuket, 1994), 19th (Berlin, 1995), 25th (Helsinki, 2001), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 34th (Brasília, 2010), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively.
- 3. <u>Does not approve</u> the minor boundary modification of the **Galápagos Islands, Ecuador**;
- 4. Requests the State Party to re-submit this request as a significant boundary modification.

B. CULTURAL PROPERTIES

B.1 ARAB STATES

Property	Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia
ID. N°	1472 bis
State Party	Saudi Arabia

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.37

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
- 2. <u>Refers</u> the examination of the minor boundary modification of the Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia, back to the State Party in order to allow it to include in the buffer zone of the Jabal Umm Sinman component part the viewshed, based on visual perspectives from Al-Muhaffar Road leading to Jubbah, to maintain the covisibility along the panoramic road and strengthen the protection of the visual integrity zone between the road and the property, once the relevant studies would have been completed;
- 3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Adopting architectural adaptations to mitigate the visual impact of the abattoir, including the use of local materials and colours,

- b) Discontinuing the use of the abattoir and its associated facilities,
- c) Transforming the power poles present within the Jabal Umm Sinman component part, its buffer zone and along Al-Muhaffar road into an underground system,
- d) Finalising the management plan of the property and submitting it upon adoption, along with established studies such as viewshed analyses, to the World Heritage Centre.

B.2 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Property	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana
ID. N°	1570 bis
State Party	India

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of the **Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana, India**;
- 3. <u>Refers</u> the examination of the minor boundary modification of the buffer zone of the **Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana, India**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to consider an extension of the buffer zone to encompass the wider context of the ancient irrigation system, including the canals and Lake Ramappa.

B.3 EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Property	Boyana Church
ID. N°	42 bis
State Party	Bulgaria

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.39

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of **Boyana Church**, **Bulgaria**;
- 3. <u>Recommends</u> that the State Party complete the proposed Conservation and Management Plan for Boyana Church and submit it to the World Heritage Centre.

Property	Madara Rider
ID. N°	43 bis
States Parties	Bulgaria

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of the **Madara Rider, Bulgaria**;
- 3. <u>Recommends</u> that the State Party complete the proposed Conservation and Management Plan for the property and submit it to the World Heritage Centre.

Property	Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari
ID. N°	359 bis
State Party	Bulgaria

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add.
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of the **Thracian tomb of Sveshtari**, **Bulgaria**;
- 3. <u>Recommends</u> that the State Party complete the Conservation and Management Plan of the property and submit it to the World Heritage Centre.

Property	Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape
ID. N°	763 bis
State Party	Czechia

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.42

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of the **Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape**, **Czechia**;

3. <u>Recommends</u> that the State Party establish a buffer zone in order to protect longdistance views and provide an additional layer of protection to the World Heritage property from potential visual impacts.

Property	Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France
ID. N°	868 bis
State Party	France

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.43

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add.
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of the **Routes of Santiago de Compostela** in France;
- 3. <u>Recommends</u> that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Providing updates regarding the approval of the Local Intercommunal Urban Plans (PLUi) and other relevant planning mechanisms that apply to the buffer zones of component parts 056, 057 and 072 to 078,
 - b) Providing maps at an appropriate scale showing the boundaries of the property and buffer zones for each of the component parts corresponding to the sections of the Chemin du Puy historical path (072 to 078),
 - c) Considering designating the sections of the Chemin du Puy historical path (component parts 072 to 078) as cultural heritage for their adequate protection and conservation,
 - d) Inscribing the component parts in the corresponding Territorial Coherence Schemes (SCoT), as well as the Local Urban Plans (PLU) and Sustainable Planning and Development Projects (PADD),
 - e) Finalising the management plan of the property under elaboration,
 - f) Continuing historical and archaeological research on the Chemin du Puy historical path,
 - g) Providing further explanation and documentation on the protection mechanisms for component part 062 (Hospital of Saint-Jacques at Figeac) and its buffer zone,
 - h) Ensuring regular communication and effective coordination between the various actors involved:
- 4. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination.

Prop	erty	Fortifications of Vauban
ID. N	0	1283 bis
State	Party	France

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add.
- 2. <u>Refers</u> the examination of the minor boundary modification of **Fortifications of Vauban**, **France**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
 - a) Clearly setting out the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value and their spatial relationships and defining the protection objectives that the buffer zones are expected to satisfy,
 - b) Provide photographic and visual documentation of the major views from and towards each component part, as well as of the major affecting factors that the expansion of the buffer zones intends to address,
 - c) Revise the delineation of the buffer zones accordingly,
 - d) Prepare cartographic documentation that clearly illustrates the different layers of protection designations and measures, including those stemming from planning and other regulatory frameworks, that will ensure that the buffer zones effectively provide an added layer of protection to the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value for each component part,
 - e) Explain the functioning and nature of the legal arrangements, and indicate who is responsible for their implementation and control, whether or not the measures are in force and, if so, what are the steps required to obtain their approval.

Property	Palace and Park of Fontainebleau
ID. N°	160 bis
State Party	France

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.45

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add.
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of the **Palace and Park of Fontainebleau**, **France**:
- 3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Continuing the participatory process for the development of the management plan of the property, finalising and approving it as soon as possible, and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre,

- b) Creating platforms and mechanisms for the effective and regular coordination among the relevant actors,
- c) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of Operational Guidelines,
- d) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for any development proposals in the property, the buffer zone and/or wider setting that could potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Property	Arles, Roman and Romanesque Monuments
ID. N°	164 bis
State Party	France

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.46

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of **Arles**, **Roman and Romanesque Monuments**, **France**:
- 3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Ensuring that the revision of the Local Urban Plan (PLU) is adapted to take into account the World Heritage property and its buffer zone perimeter, or alternatively establishing a strategic document for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, which would comply with the Heritage Code and inform the local urban planning authorities, in order to enhance the protection of the World Heritage property and guarantee that legal protection, such as urban planning regulations, is effectively implemented,
 - b) Considering developing measures to ensure the effective preservation of distant views connecting the property with its natural or urban landscape, beyond the Alpilles Landscape Directive, to preserve the skyline of the property as well as, for instance, its connection to the Montmajour Abbey,
 - c) Monitoring regularly the health of the trees growing near the Alyscamps Necropolis, which currently form a fragile barrier to block the view on the Luma Arles Tower,
 - d) Developing and implementing a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment, as prescribed in the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for any development proposals in the property, its buffer zone and/or wider setting to avoid any potential negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,
 - e) Informing the World Heritage Centre well in advance of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Property	Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia
ID. N°	825 quater
State Party	Italy

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of the **Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia, Italy**.

Property	Via Appia. Regina Viarum
ID. N°	1708 bis
State Party	Italy

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
- 2. <u>Does not approve</u> the minor boundary modification of the **Via Appia.** Regina Viarum, *Italy*.

Property	Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato
ID. N°	1390 bis
State Party	Italy

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.49

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add.
- 2. <u>Refers</u> the examination of the minor boundary modification of the **Vineyard Landscape** of **Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, Italy**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
 - a) Further document the entirety of the viewshed, views and panoramic vistas that can be enjoyed from the proposed enlarged buffer zone but also from the property towards the buffer zone, in order to clarify what the revised buffer zone aims to protect,

- b) Clarify and explain in more detail what landscape protection designations stemming from national legal framework cover the proposed expanded buffer zone,
- c) Provide maps of the landscape protection designations and of the Regional Landscape Plan of Piedmont (PPR) zoning at an appropriate scale complemented by detailed descriptions of the protection provisions and compliance mechanisms,
- d) Clarify through which landscape protection designations and mechanisms the existing buffer zone provides an added layer of protection to the property and how legal protection is afforded to the property at the national level;
- 3. <u>Recommends</u> that the State Party develop and implement a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism, to be integrated into the existing procedures, to ensure that impacts from any development proposals in the property, the buffer zones and/or wider setting that could potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, are properly assessed.

Property	The Historic Centre of Odesa
ID. N°	1703 bis
State Party	Ukraine

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.50

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
- 2. <u>Refers</u> the examination of the minor boundary modification of **The Historic Centre of Odesa, Ukraine**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
 - a) Continue working on defining the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value,
 - b) Undertake studies to define the interconnections between the city, the port and the sea to enable an understanding of visual and functional linkages and to identify the key visual points and axes that link the Historic Centre to its immediate and wider setting,
 - c) Give consideration to where development areas may be located in order to avoid adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property,
 - d) On the basis of these studies, extend the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone to the north, west and south of the Historic Centre to allow it to support key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, and define view corridors that also need protection to maintain key interlinkages between the Historic Centre and its immediate and wider setting.
 - e) Define precisely how the buffer zone will be managed to support the World Heritage property, in relation to its protection and planning procedures,
 - f) Ensure that the proposed boundaries can be clearly identified on the ground.

B.4 LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Property	City of Potosí
ID. N°	420 bis
State Party	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
- 2. <u>Approves</u> the minor boundary modification of the **City of Potosí**, **Plurinational State of Bolivia**:
- 3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
 - a) Consolidating the centralised management structure of the property, ensuring active and sustained participation of national, departmental, and municipal authorities, academic institutions, and civil society organisations building on the framework established through Law No. 473 (2024),
 - b) Ensuring the effective operational integration of the boundaries of the World Heritage property and of the buffer zone into the Integrated and Participatory Management Plan (IPMP), supported by legally binding instruments and coordinated enforcement mechanisms,
 - c) Strengthening participatory heritage governance and conservation measures, with particular attention to areas impacted by mining activities, and ensuring the comprehensive safeguarding and monitoring of the Kari Kari hydraulic system.

Property	Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo
ID. N°	135 bis
State Party	Panama

See the 2025 ICOMOS Evaluation Addendum Book.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.52

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add.
- 2. <u>Refers</u> the examination of the minor boundary modification of the **Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo, Panama**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
 - a) Clarify the potential impact of Resolution DM-0106-2024 of the Ministry of Environment on the proposed buffer zone for the San Lorenzo Castle component part (09), and, eventually, review the proposed boundaries in order to ensure the adequate protection of the natural setting of this component part, especially the mouth of Chagres River,

- b) Review the proposed boundaries of the buffer zones of the component parts located in the Portobelo area in order to ensure that they are of adequate size and adapted to the specific features of the area, and consider the possibility of adopting the area of the "Wider Setting: Historic Monumental Complex of Portobelo", established by national Law 91 of 1976, as a single buffer zone that encompasses all the component parts located in this area and their setting;
- 3. <u>Recommends</u> that the State Party provide updated information on the progress made in relation to the development of the integral management plan for the serial property to the World Heritage Committee.

III. STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS AND NOT ADOPTED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Draft Decision: 47 COM 8B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add,
- 2. <u>Adopts</u> the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for the following World Heritage properties inscribed at previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee:
 - Austria, Germany, Slovakia, Frontiers of the Roman Empire The Danube Limes (Western Segment)
 - Belgium, France, Funerary and memory sites of the First World War (Western Front)
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vjetrenica Cave, Ravno
 - · Congo, Forest Massif of Odzala-Kokoua
 - France, Te Henua Enata The Marquesas Islands
 - France, Volcanoes and Forests of Mount Pelée and the Pitons of Northern Martinique
 - Iran (Islamic Republic of), Hegmataneh
 - Italy, Evaporitic Karst and Caves of Northern Apennines
 - Japan, Sado Island Gold Mines
 - Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Cold Winter Deserts of Turan
 - Rwanda, Nyungwe National Park
 - South Africa, Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites
 - Viet Nam, Ha Long Bay Cat Ba Archipelago.

Property	Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment)
States Parties	Austria, Germany, Slovakia
ID No.	1608 bis
Dates of inscriptions	2021, 2024

Brief synthesis

The Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment) ran for almost 600 km along the River Danube, following the northern and eastern boundaries of the Roman provinces of Raetia (eastern part), Noricum and the north of Pannonia, from Bad Gögging in Germany through Austria to Iža in Slovakia.

For more than 400 years from the 1st century CE, it constituted the middle European boundary of the Roman Empire against what were called 'barbarians'.

First continuously defined in the Flavian dynasty (69-96 CE) and later further developed, the fortifications consisted of a continuous chain of military installations almost all along the southern banks of the river. The backbone of the defence system was a string of four legionary fortresses, each housing some 5,500 to 6,000 Roman citizens as soldiers. This number reflected Roman anxiety about powerful neighbours such as Germanic peoples in the north. Between the legionary fortresses, were forts, fortlets, and watchtowers linked by access roads and serviced by the Pannonian fleet that patrolled the River Danube under the control of Rome. To serve soldiers and civilians, sizeable civilian towns were developed around the legionary fortresses and some forts, and these towns also spread Roman culture to the edges of the Empire.

The form and disposition of the fortifications reflects the geomorphology of the river as well as military, economic and social requirements. For most of its length the western segment of the Danube frontier crosses wide floodplains, separated from each other by high mountain ranges that force the meandering river into deep, narrow gorges. These natural conditions are reflected in the size and positioning of military installations, with the gorges being

secured by small, elevated posts, and the plains by larger forts at river crossings or other strategic points overlooking the plains. Although primarily for defence, in peaceful times the Limes also controlled trade and access across the river.

The western segment of the Danube Limes finally broke down in the 5th century CE. During the Middle Ages, many still standing Roman buildings were reused and served as nuclei for the development of villages and towns many of which exist today.

The 77 component parts, selected from a far larger number that still remain, together reflect in an outstanding way all elements of the well-balanced complex River Danube defensive system, linked by the military road parallel to the river. They also offer a clear understanding of the way Roman military strategies evolved over time to counter threats emanating from sustained large-scale migrations in the later years of the Roman Empire, particularly through the remains of a bridgehead fort and temporary camps on the left bank of the river.

The large number of civilian settlements present a vivid understanding of the lives of the military and civilians, and how defensive installations became the focus for trade and engagement with areas beyond the frontier, all of which brought about profound and long-lasting changes to the landscape of this part of Europe.

Criterion (ii): The legionary fortresses, forts, fortlets, watchtowers, linked infrastructure and civilian architecture that made up the Roman military system of the western segment of the Danube Limes extended technical knowledge of construction and management to the very edges of the Empire. This segment did not constitute an impregnable barrier but controlled and allowed the movement of peoples, not only military units, but also civilians and merchants. This triggered profound changes and developments in terms of settlement patterns, architecture and landscape design and spatial organisation in this part of the frontier which has persisted over time. The frontier landscape is thus an exceptional reflection of the imposition of a complex military system on existing societies in the northern part of the Empire.

Criterion (iii): The Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment) presents an exceptional manifestation of Roman imperial policy and the Empire's ambition to dominate the world in order to establish its law and way of life in the long-term. The segment reflects specifically how the Empire consolidated its northern frontiers at the maximum extension of its powers. It also witnesses Roman colonization through the spread of culture and different traditions – military engineering, architecture, art, religion, management and politics – from the capital to the remotest parts of the Empire. The large number of human settlements associated with the defences, contribute to an exceptional understanding of how soldiers and their families, and also civilians, lived in this part of the Empire, with all the accoutrements of Roman culture such as baths, religious shrines and, at the largest settlements like Carnuntum, amphitheatres and a governor's palace.

Criterion (iv): The materials and substance of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment) can be seen as a vivid testimony to the way Roman military systems were influenced by geography and, over four centuries, were developed and adapted to meet changing threats to the Empire. Military campaigns are reflected by temporary camps built around existing forts, a bridgehead built on the left bank of the Danube River, and horseshoe and fanshaped towers and strongly fortified fortlets developed as a response in Late Roman times to changes in warfare. In Mediaeval times, many of the defensive constructions became the nuclei of later settlements and, through their continuous use until today, have shaped the form of medieval towns along the Danube.

Integrity

The series of component parts as a whole reflects all the key elements which once constituted the frontier system – that is the continuous chain of military installations along the southern banks of the river consisting of legionary fortresses, the backbone of the system, around which forts, fortlets, and watchtowers were laid out at varying distances – as well as the linking infrastructure and civilian settlements. The ensemble of component parts represents the long period in which the western segment of the Danube operated as part of the frontiers of the Roman Empire as well as all its main periods of construction from its establishment in the 1st century CE until its disintegration in the 5th century CE, and the extraordinary complexity and coherence of its frontier installations.

Although some individual component parts are fragmentary and have been affected by changes of land use, natural processes, and in some cases over-building, the visible remains and buried archaeological features are both sufficient in scope to convey their contribution to the overall series. The boundaries of all individual component parts encompass the relevant attributes necessary to support their contribution to Outstanding Universal Value. Later development overlaying parts of the frontier remains are treated as vertical buffer zones.

In a few component parts, integrity is impacted by infrastructural development and windfarms and these impacts need to be addressed, when opportunities arise, and further impacts prevented.

Authenticity

The western segment of the Danube Frontier clearly reflects the specificities of this part of the overall Roman Frontier through the way selection of sites has encompassed all the key elements from the legionary fortresses and their associated settlements to small forts and temporary camps, and the way they relate to topography. All the component parts have been subject to intensive study and research. Sources deployed include the full array of archaeological research techniques (past and present excavation, field survey, aerial photography, geophysics etc.)

as well as archival evidence. The component parts have the capacity to clearly reflect their inherent value and their contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value. The one area where the value is less well articulated is in terms of the relationship of component parts to the River Danube, as the frontier and as a longitudinal transport artery for military support, goods and people. All the component parts originally had a dynamic relationship with the river. As the Danube in places has shifted its course considerably since Roman times, some components have lost this link. In places the original course has not been identified. This link needs strengthening on the basis of more research on the original course of the river.

Overall, the fabric of the upstanding remains is in a good state of conservation. Some of the underground components are very fragile and highly vulnerable to damage and erosion from continuing cultivation. Reconstruction has been undertaken at a number of component parts and in most cases, it is slight and historical. There is though little consistency of approach on how the difference between original and reconstructed fabric is revealed. The most extensive reconstruction is at Carnuntum, where work is still in progress and, although reversible, is in places conjectural. At Iža (Kelemantia), parts of the fort have been rebuilt in a way that is not readily distinguishable from original material.

There is a need for a clear and consistent approach to reconstruction across the whole series. Large-scale conjectural reconstruction on top of original fabric needs to be avoided. As much reconstruction work will require renewal as part of ongoing conservation programmes, there are opportunities for improvement. The landward side of some of the component parts has not always been protected adequately. At Carnuntum the close proximity of an extensive windfarm is visually intrusive.

Protection and management requirements

Each of the three participating States Parties has a discrete legal system and administrative processes for heritage protection at national, regional, and local levels, and in the federal states of Germany and Austria there are also discrete statutory frameworks for each federal component (the German component parts are confined to the Federal State of Bavaria). Although the detailed legal provisions and terminology for designation and protection vary in each State, the function and effect of the different national provisions is the same: they should ensure adequate long-term protection of the component parts and their setting, if both are appropriately defined, if landowners are cooperative and if the measures are effectively implemented by regional and local governments.

Within each State Party an appropriate management system has been developed, expressed through national Management Plans. The aim of these plans is to ensure that individual parts of the property are managed within an agreed overall framework of co-operation to achieve common standards of identification, recording, research, protection, conservation, management, and presentation in an interdisciplinary manner and within a sustainable framework. The plans will be regularly updated. The national management systems address also the interests and involvement of all stakeholders and the sustainable economic use of the property.

At the international level the participating States Parties have agreed a Joint Declaration for running and expanding the property. This sets out the terms of reference for an Intergovernmental Committee to coordinate at an international level the management and development of the whole World Heritage property and to work to common aims and objectives and a Danube Limes Management Group to provide the primary mechanism for sharing best practice for those directly responsible for site management.

On a supra-national level, the Frontiers of the Roman Empire – The Danube Limes (Western Segment) aims to cooperate intensively with the existing Frontiers of the Roman Empire properties, to create a cluster. The existing Bratislava Group, an international advisory body for the Frontiers as a whole, will also provide a supportive technical network.

Property	Funerary and memory sites of the First World War (Western Front)
States Parties	Belgium, France
ID No.	1567 rev
Date of inscription	2023

Brief synthesis

The transnational serial property "Funerary and memory sites of the First World War (Western Front)" comprises 139 component parts spread across the Western Front, the decisive front that was active throughout the First World War (1914-1918). Soldiers from all over the world (from more than 130 present-day countries) fought or stood side by side. Located on or near the battlefields, the component parts of this series include various types of cemeteries, such as battlefields, hospitals, assembly, and their surroundings, often associated with memorials. They are representative of all the international military memorial and funerary forms present in France and Belgium.

The serial property conveys the immense trauma experienced by societies in the early 20th century and the mourning of survivors and their families on an international scale. It bears witness to a new kind of war, industrialized, that mobilized millions of men and women around the world. On the Western Front alone, more than two million men were buried in cemeteries and necropolises, with several hundred thousand more missing or unidentified. The vast majority had been conscripted into national armies through a draft system that tore apart

families and entire communities. Added to these were the civilians killed during offensives, as well as labourers, many of whom came from colonial territories.

For the first time in history, a new approach to handling the deaths of soldiers was implemented, one that would become the standard. It is based on the identification of the dead, whenever possible, and the individualization of their graves, meant to be systematic and reciprocal, regardless of the dead soldier's origin, rank, nationality, culture, social class, or philosophical or religious beliefs. These practices were first carried out by the comrades of the fallen, when circumstances allowed, and by local civilians, before being institutionalized by the States. The fundamental principle of equal treatment for all the deceased was implemented through new structures created during the war to meet the needs of commemoration. This approach was formalized by the 1929 Geneva Convention, signed by 47 States.

The funerary and memory sites are permanent and form a remarkable architectural ensemble, reflecting both national and transnational aesthetic models. Mourning is expressed through architecture, decorative elements, landscaping, and spatial design, each representing the diverse cultures from around the world that were involved in the fighting on the Western Front. For over a century, this ensemble has served as the site of commemorations that remain a living tradition. Reflecting geopolitical shifts, identities, and the cultures of many peoples, these commemorations today engage both local communities and populations from around the world. This tradition fosters educational and international exchanges in the form of intergenerational dialogue. As markers of the war that initiated the cycle of 20th-century violence, the funerary and memory sites have become places of transmission and awareness. As sites of memory and reflection for humanity, they contribute to reconciliation and to the pursuit of an ideal of peace.

Criterion (iii): The serial property bears witness to the institutionalization and widespread adoption of a transnational approach to the treatment of the dead, which gave rise to a new form of humanitarian law: the identification and burial of those killed in war in individual graves.

For the first time in history, every victim of the conflict was, in principle, buried and acknowledged as an individual, on a universal scale and without distinction of nationality, social status, ethnicity, or religion. This practice was carried out reciprocally by all the warring parties. The individual who died in combat is acknowledged as a person in their own right, with respect for their religious or philosophical beliefs.

The name of each deceased is inscribed on their grave, if identified, or on a memorial if their identity is unknown. Individual graves are mostly grouped within military cemeteries. Ossuaries hold the remains of unidentified soldiers. Monuments to the missing are erected for those who have no identified individual grave. The names of the missing are engraved in alphabetical lists.

This individual and equal recognition of all victims became a common practice and the legal norm for conflicts following the First World War.

Criterion (iv): The ensemble of funerary and memory sites of the First World War (Western Front) provides an exceptional illustration of the First World War and its consequences, an era of profound significance in human history. The serial property reflects the creation of new models, as well as architectural, landscape, and artistic works born from the desire to remember all those who died in the war, to pay tribute to them, and to restore a sense of human dignity. The component parts of the series were created and organized by all the belligerent nations, each expressing their own cultural sensibilities and national styles. Consistent attention to aesthetics and the surrounding environment is a defining feature.

Through their scale and number, the sites reflect the unprecedented level of destruction brought about by a war that was, for the first time, total and global. By their location, generally near major battle sites and often accompanied by elements that directly bear witness to the conflict, they form a commemorative landscape. This typology of war cemeteries, ossuaries, and memorials has served as a model in subsequent conflicts.

Criterion (vi): This extensive and coherent series is tangibly and directly associated with the scope, scale, and global consequences of the First World War, which made it an exceptional event of worldwide significance. Together, these funerary and memory sites, erected across a vast yet clearly defined territory, bear witness to a tradition that remains alive, initiated even before the conflict ended. They reflect the multitude and diversity of soldiers who died in the war and the countries they represented.

In the face of the inhumanity of war, they embody a shared commitment to preserving the individual identity of its victims and to rehumanizing the traumatized societies left in its wake. Through their design and layout, they highlight the values of equality and human dignity.

More than a century later, millions of visitors of all generations from around the world still visit these sites as a form of remembrance and pilgrimage. Alongside local residents, they take part in commemorations, whether institutional or organized by associations, at international, national, local, or personal levels.

Integrity

The series presents a selection of the most emblematic funerary and memory sites representing this new cult of honouring those who died in the war on the Western Front of the First World War (France–Belgium), drawn from a wider set of several thousand cemeteries and monuments.

It reflects the memory of the nations and peoples who took part in the fighting and bears witness to the extraordinary diversity of the belligerents, fully justifying the term "First World War". Through its component parts, the series presents a comprehensive representation of the nations and peoples involved in the conflict.

The component parts of the series reflect the cultural diversity of the various belligerents and illustrate the full range of architectural, decorative, and landscape styles, shaped both by the diversity of those who created them and by the historical evolution of cemeteries and memorials over time. It thus conveys the stylistic and typological diversity of funerary and commemorative works.

The series is grounded in the different zones of the Western Front and the various phases of the war's history. The geographical distribution of the property's component parts expresses this dual spatial and chronological balance. The series respects and illustrates the historical extent of the Western Front.

Finally, it embodies a commemorative tradition that has evolved over time and continues to be actively observed on a large scale today. The proposed series takes into account these different temporal dimensions in the construction of the sites, as well as their current cultural and symbolic significance.

Each component part of the serial property individually demonstrates strong structural integrity, whether as a memorial, necropolis, organized military cemetery, or monument. Almost all of them were conceived from the outset as coherent monumental and landscaped ensembles, whose structure and design reflect a deliberate intention to create places of remembrance. Their construction followed the conventions of a funerary art shaped both by the cultural context of the interwar period and by the deep cultural and emotional weight of war memory. Plant elements (lawns, trees, and ornamental plantings) are designed to visually enhance the monumental or territorial components. All the component parts possess deep symbolic significance, which continues to be felt today. In and of themselves, the component parts of the series embody a high degree of integrity in preserving intangible heritage and ensuring its transmission across generations, especially since the passing of the last eyewitnesses of the First World War.

Authenticity

The series consists of a group of cemeteries and memorials designed to fulfil a funerary and memorial function that has been carefully preserved to this day. They are complementary sites of memory, each linked to specific events of the First World War. These funerary and memorial sites have been preserved and maintained in accordance with their original purpose.

Created during the war itself, the cemeteries and individual graves bear witness to the widespread adoption of a new form of commemoration for those who died in combat. After the Armistice, the systematic search for the dead, their identification, and the concentration of remains led to the organization of cemeteries and necropolises, as well as ossuaries for unidentified human remains.

The construction of war memorials dedicated to the conflict and its dead developed not only near the former front lines, but also in villages and cities further away. The most prominent memorial monuments, which form part of the series, provide both a visual and symbolic rhythm along the former front and across the broader landscape.

Some wartime cemeteries had their remains exhumed, but their memorial function was preserved, giving a few of them an archaeological dimension. Certain cemeteries were affected by events during the Second World War, and some were reorganized afterward, yet always in keeping with their original funerary purpose. Often associated with cemeteries, the funerary monuments, typically bearing long lists of the deceased, have followed a parallel historical trajectory. Some of these were created during the war itself, but most were designed during the interwar period, directly linked to the commemoration of those who died in combat. They are therefore individual material testimonies that offer a high degree of authenticity in reflecting the new, widespread cult of honouring those who died in combat, and they have maintained their role as places of remembrance.

In conclusion, the sites forming the component parts of the series generally demonstrate a high level of maintenance and preservation, in keeping with their material authenticity and symbolic value. The serial property powerfully conveys the authentic and enduring nature of the commemoration of those who died in combat, recognized as individuals.

Protection and management requirements

The sites that make up the series are located across the territories of two States (Belgium and France) each with its own heritage protection regulations and legislation (Wallonia, Flanders, France).

All of the sites included in the property are subject to protective measures. To this end, each partner applies its respective legal frameworks. The Belgian partners (Flanders and Wallonia) have chosen to systematically apply heritage legislation by classifying all of the sites. This classification serves both as recognition of their heritage value and as a protection tool.

In Wallonia, the sites in question are designated either as protected sites or, in some cases, as monuments. The buffer zone is generally covered by another heritage protection mechanism known as the "protection zone", which functions in a manner similar to a buffer zone. In two cases, the heritage value of the surrounding area has led to the buffer zone itself being designated as a protected site.

In Flanders, all the sites that form part of the series are classified as monuments. The buffer zones are supported by heritage or urban planning tools.

In France, the sites in the series are subject to legal protection of a heritage nature (listing or nomination as historic monuments), or are located near historic monuments or remarkable heritage sites. They may also be protected for environmental reasons (such as site listings or inclusion in state-owned forests) or under urban planning regulations (Local Urban Plan).

In both Belgium and France, the vast majority of national and international military cemeteries and memorials hold the status of inalienable public property.

The management of the serial property prioritizes the conservation of its component sites, the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value and the attributes on which it is based, through a common and shared approach while respecting the specific characteristics of each component part. The continuation of commemorative practices within a context conducive to reflection is also at the heart of the management of the serial property. These practices follow in the tradition of the cult of the dead that emerged from the First World War, focused on the commemoration of each individual, including the identification and burial procedures in the event of the accidental discovery of remains related to combat. Communicating and sharing this Outstanding Universal Value with the widest possible audience, both local communities and international visitors, is another key aspect of the management strategy.

Furthermore, the maintenance, management, and conservation of most of these sites fall under the responsibility of specific organizations established during or shortly after the war by the main belligerents (ABMC, CWGC, ONaCVG, VDK, WHI). These entities have their own management and maintenance programmes, which are based in particular on international cooperation agreements, and they organize meetings and exchanges of best practices. In addition, they are committed to preserving the memory of those who died in the war by encouraging and supporting visits from individuals and school groups through narrative, educational, and interpretive initiatives.

The management plan therefore takes this complexity into account, incorporates existing cooperation, and aims to expand collaboration for the benefit of all the component parts of the property. It is based on a structure that brings together representatives of the States supporting the project (Belgium, through Wallonia and Flanders, and France) and the site managers.

The management plan is implemented at various levels (transnational, national, regional, and local) in order to reflect the legal frameworks and practices of each context. It is intended to serve as a strategic tool to manage the evolution of the sites and their surroundings, to ensure that the sites remain rooted in their territories, and to encourage the involvement of local communities.

Property	Vjetrenica Cave, Ravno
State Party	Bosnia and Herzegovina
ID No.	1673
Date of inscription	2024

Brief synthesis

Vjetrenica Cave, Ravno is recognised as one of the world's most important and species-rich biodiversity hotspots for subterranean fauna in the world. The property contains globally important levels of subterranean species diversity, endemicity, single-genus diversity and species considered as living fossils. Located in the South Dinaric Karst range in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vjetrenica Cave, measures 7,324 meters in length and forms part of the Trebišnjica river system. The Cave provides one of the most well documented examples of the cave hygropetric habitat, an intermediate between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems denoted by a thin layer of water moving over vertical rock surfaces.

Criterion (x): The property stands out on a global level for its exceptional cave biodiversity and endemicity and can be considered one of the most important hotspots of subterranean faunal diversity globally. More than 230 taxa have been recorded in the Vjetrenica Cave System, including 180 animals, 14 fungi and 35 protists. Altogether, 93 troglobiotic, i.e., obligate subterranean aquatic (48) and terrestrial (45), taxa have been reported for the system, of which 40 were first scientifically described from the property (the property represents the type locality). Vjetrenica Cave also stands out as an exceptional example of single-genus diversity – the nine species of the subterranean amphipod genus Niphargus, which may represent the highest subterranean single-genus diversity in the world.

The exceptional endemicity of the property is illustrated by its stygofauna, of which 78% are only found in the Dinaric region. Vjetrenica Cave is habitat for the only subterranean tubeworm in the world (*Marifugia cavatica*) and the only freshwater hydrozoan living exclusively in groundwater (*Velkovrhia enigmatica*). In addition, several of the species found in Vjetrenica Cave are Tertiary and pre-Tertiary relict species, considered as living fossils, whose closest living relatives went extinct a long time ago. The property is also reported to host 21 plant species that are endemic to the Balkans.

Integrity

The area of Vjetrenica Cave (22.87 ha) is embedded within the larger property (413.97 ha). Despite its small size, it is home to the significant subterranean fauna and main cave features and habitats, for which the property is inscribed. The boundary design of the buffer zone appears to cover a significant portion of the catchment, and adequately provides a buffering function to the above attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.

The state of conservation of the cave-dwelling fauna is secure, although given the restricted area of the property, populations are inevitably fragile and prone to impacts from upstream activities, particularly changes to the hydrological regime in the wider catchment of the property. Pressures from tourism, development projects, waste management and their associated pollution are low, although a high level of vigilance and careful watershed management should be maintained in relation to these potential threats.

It is recognised that due to the ongoing research and exploration of the property, and presence of further significant values in the wider Dinaric karst landscape, an extension of the boundaries, or a potential serial transnational extension, may possibly be envisaged in future.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected through a multi-layer governance framework, under the jurisdiction of various government ministries at the federal, cantonal and municipal level. The entirety of the property and its buffer zone is part of the Vjetrenica-Popovo Polje Protected Landscape, the property being located within the Strict Protection Zone.

Application of the finalised zonation of the Vjetrenica-Popovo Polje Protected Landscape is a priority, and is important for ensuring that the upstream hydrological regime maintains a suitable water supply, inflow, and quality to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of Vjetrenica Cave in the long term.

Management of the property is delegated to the Vjetrenica Public Company Ltd. under the oversight of the Municipality of Ravno and the Herzegovina Neretva Canton. The management body has a management plan, harmonized with the designation law of the protected landscape, and limited staff to manage the property (including tourism).

Key management requirements centre on the protection of the attributes of the unique biodiversity, karst geological features and the wider watershed of Vjetrenica Cave. To ensure the species' populations and diversity present at the time of inscription is maintained in the long term, it is essential that sufficient and sustainable resources, including staffing and technical capacity, are available for the management of the property. It is important that the management regime of the property focusses not only on tourism management, important in itself as a potential threat, but also enhanced management for nature conservation, including a system of effective biodiversity monitoring within the property, and hydrological management in the wider catchment.

Property	Forest Massif of Odzala-Kokoua
State Party	Congo
ID No.	692 rev
Date of inscription	2023

Brief synthesis

The Forest Massif of Odzala-Kokoua (FMOK) is the largest protected area in the transition zone between the Atlantic or Lower Guinean region and the Congolese region (1,179,376 ha), with, however, a preponderance of Lower Guinean affinities. It is nestled in the heart of a vast forest ecosystem spanning 4.7 million hectares. The property constitutes an exceptional representation of the process of forest recolonization over savanna, with, in particular, vast areas of highly diverse Marantaceae forests with a preponderance of Lower Guinean affinities. Two-thirds of the property's habitats represent very different stages and ages of this recolonization process. In addition, the escarpment of Etokou is home to saxicolous and mist forests, ecosystems that are not known to occur elsewhere in northern Congo. The fauna within the property is virtually complete, and its forest ecosystem remains fully functional.

Criterion (ix): The forest ecosystem is characterized by its great diversity of formations of very different ages over an enormous area. The property represents all stages of the savanna-to-forest succession process. Marantaceae forests cover around 60% of the property. These forests are highly diversified, representing both progressive succession stages, as seen in other sites in west-central Africa, and regressive stages where mature forests are invaded by the highly aggressive Marantaceae species *Haumania liebrechtsiana*. The forest dynamics within FMOK are driven by complex and still insufficiently understood ecological processes. The presence of more than 130 marshy clearings maintained by wildlife is not exceptional in itself, but contributes greatly to the significance of the property. These clearings function as vital exchange hubs for nutrients and play a critical role in determining the movements of elephants, which are essential agents of forest dynamics. Moreover, this forest ecosystem, with predominant Lower Guinean affinities, is highly representative of the forests within the Sangha interval and, more specifically, of the advancing front of Lower Guinean forests as they reclaim savanna areas. This virtually untouched

forest ecosystem helps to preserve the integrity of the waters of the Mambili basin, and thus the vast interface between terrestrial and aquatic environments.

Criterion (x): The FMOK's intact forest ecosystem is home to little-studied forest formations, including old-growth, saxicolous and mist forests. These mist forests are unique to northern Congo and the Sangha interval, and they provide habitat for at least 32 plant species that are not found elsewhere in the region, including one endemic species. In all, 1,150 plant species have been identified, of which four are endemic and 15 are classified as threatened to varying degrees.

In terms of fauna, this ecosystem supports at least 120 species of mammals. These include 20 threatened species and 17 primate species, including 9 species endemic or sub-endemic to Lower Guinea. The populations of 6,246 forest elephants, 11,481 gorillas, and 2,240 chimpanzees represent significant strongholds for the conservation of these threatened species. Notably, the only known population of forest-dwelling spotted hyenas in the Congo Basin occurs within the property. In terms of avian diversity, 463 bird species have been recorded, including 64% of the 278 forest species restricted to the Guinean-Congolese region, or 88% of the Guineo-Congolian bird species documented in Congo, two of the six endemic species of Lower Guinea and four threatened species. The insect fauna includes at least 647 species of diurnal butterflies, featuring one locally endemic species, numerous subendemic species of Lower Guinea, and several species that appear to be confined to the region's Marantaceae forests. Lastly, the FMOK is also home to significant populations of threatened long-snouted crocodiles, dwarf crocodiles and two endemic fish species.

Integrity

The FMOK forest ecosystem spans 1,179,376 ha, and is further safeguarded by a buffer zone, bringing the total area to 5,386,236 ha. The property itself is almost 100% intact. The buffer zone (4,206,860 ha) includes the ecodevelopment zone of Odzala-Kokoua National Park (PNOK) (187,843 ha), forestry concessions on the immediate periphery of the park (3,640,514 ha), the Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary (35,000 ha), and a section of the Espace TRIDOM Interzone Congo (ETIC) (343,503 ha). The forests in this buffer zone are all sustainably managed or FSC-certified. These areas support a human population of around 40,000 inhabitants.

Mining operations on the outskirts of the FMOK have resulted in mercury contamination of the Lékoli river. Extreme vigilance is therefore required in this area. However, due to its substantial size, slightly accentuated but present relief, dense hydrographic network, phytogeographic ecological gradients, and its large buffer zone, the FMOK ecosystem possesses the resilience needed to withstand future development projects in northern Congo, population expansion, and anticipated climate change impacts. Nevertheless, it is important to avoid potential threats stemming from large-scale development and resource extraction, which could compromise the property's exceptional integrity.

Protection and management requirements

Apart from activities essential to management, research and tourism, no extractive activities are permitted. Rigorous surveillance measures must be implemented to prevent illegal mining and to require mining companies to perform the mandatory environmental impact assessments for any proposed industrial activities, while ensuring that no mining projects are authorized within the property. Poaching represents the most immediate and pressing threat to the property. Effective anti-poaching strategies, including targeted measures to combat ivory trafficking, are imperative. Alongside the anti-poaching campaign, regular monitoring of the actions taken, the results obtained, and the site's conditions, is organised. Population estimates for elephants and great apes, as well as surveys of illegal human activities, are conducted at intervals of three to five years.

All these activities are codified by law, mainly by the decree creating the PNOK, Law 37-2008 of November 28, 2008 on wildlife and protected areas, and the Forestry Code. These legal provisions incorporate considerations for peripheral local communities and Indigenous Peoples. In their recognition, a designated "community development zone" has been established, which is managed through participatory mapping initiatives. Guaranteeing the rights and livelihoods of local communities and Indigenous Peoples is a fundamental requirement for the protection and effective management of the property. The management of the property must be based on the principle of free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines.

Finally, the FMOK is surrounded by a 4,206,860-ha buffer zone, comprising sustainably managed and certified forestry concessions. Agreements have been or must be established with these concessions to coordinate anti-poaching efforts. This vast buffer zone of forest concessions extends the forest habitats accessible to species with large home ranges, serves as a protective barrier that isolates the FMOK from various external pressures, and safeguards these forests from being exploited for other uses.

Property	Te Henua Enata – The Marquesas Islands
State Party	France
ID No.	1707
Date of inscription	2024

Brief synthesis

Located in the heart of the South Pacific Ocean, the Marquesas Islands are among the most geographically isolated archipelagos in the world. The islands' dramatic landscapes feature steep mountains, towering cliffs, and cloud-covered peaks descending into deep valleys. Te Henua Enata – The Marquesas Islands is a serial property comprising seven distinct sites, each bearing exceptional testimony to the settlement and territorial occupation of the Marquesas by a seafaring civilization that arrived around 1000 CE. This society flourished in isolation for centuries before European contact and the subsequent annexation of the archipelago by France in 1842.

Throughout this period, the Enata—meaning "human beings" in Marquesan—developed a sophisticated social structure based on chiefdoms, establishing settlements in valleys that stretched from the ridges down to the coastline and the sea. These valleys served as both spatial and symbolic units of governance. Owing to demographic decline and the abandonment of many ancient settlements, numerous archaeological remains have been preserved, often hidden beneath dense forest cover.

This serial property is recognized as a biodiversity hotspot for both terrestrial and marine life in the Pacific. The Marquesas rank first or second worldwide in terms of endemic species, including vascular plants, land and seabirds, terrestrial and marine molluscs, and freshwater fish. These species inhabit a wide range of natural environments, from coastal formations to scrublands high on ridges that can exceed 1,000 metres in altitude. Lacking the coral reefs typically found in this type of oceanic island in the eastern Pacific, the waters of the Marquesas Islands are an exceptional example of a tropical island ecosystem with very high primary productivity. Notable for their high endemism of coastal fish and marine molluscs, the waters of the Marquesas archipelago have been described as the wildest coastal marine province in the world. The archipelago sustains some of the world's highest coastal biomass levels, dominated by apex predators. The marine ecosystem is virtually free from human exploitation. The archipelago also boasts a wide variety of emblematic marine species, including rays, dolphins and nesting seabirds. The relatively undisturbed ecological processes of the Marquesas provide a unique model of species evolution in an oceanic island environment.

Criterion (iii): Te Henua Enata – The Marquesas Islands provide an outstanding example of the Enata's occupation from the 10th to the 19th century, offering insight into their adaptation to a challenging natural environment with limited building materials, their settlement patterns in deep, rugged valleys, and their complex social and spiritual organization into chiefdoms. The steep volcanic terrain and climatic constraints led the Enata to construct two-storey dry-stone lithic platforms (paepae), some of which rise up to six metres in height, serving as both housing and ceremonial buildings, including tohua (gathering places) and me'ae (sacred spaces). The local people also developed a unique art form, incorporating sculpted tiki figures and intricate petroglyph engravings, illustrating the close relationship between human beings and their environment. The eight valleys within the property are considered the most remarkable for the density and size of their lithic remains.

Criterion (vi): Despite the near disappearance of the Enata following the demographic collapse and cultural assimilation caused by European contact, many tales, myths, and legends referring to real and cosmological landscapes remain alive today, passed down in the Marquesan language. Combined with the knowledge handed down from generation to generation, the writings of the early explorers from the late 18th and 19th centuries, and the first ethnographic studies carried out in the late 19th century, they provide valuable insights into the life of the Enata chiefdoms, including their belief systems surrounding the origins of the world. All these living traditions and knowledge highlight the enduring connection the modern Marquesan population have with their environment.

Criterion (vii): The Marquesas' volcanic origins have created dramatic landscapes of razor-sharp ridges, towering peaks, and sheer cliffs rising over 1,000 metres above the ocean. The Marquesas are among the world's most "vertical" islands. Their lush vegetation, combined with dramatic topography and rugged coastlines, creates island scenery unparalleled in the tropics. The cliffs plunge directly into the ocean, providing natural vantage points for observing wildlife, including hundreds of dolphins gathering in massive pods, alongside two species of manta rays—the reef manta ray and the giant manta ray—whose rare microsympatry (shared habitat at the same dive site) is highly unusual and rarely observed elsewhere in the world. This creates a breathtaking panorama of raw, untamed nature.

Criterion (ix): The Marquesas, the only isolated archipelago in the middle of the equatorial Pacific, are an oasis of marine life in the vast Pacific Ocean. The counter-current surrounding the Marquesas isolates the property from the main oceanic currents. The archipelago has one of the world's highest fish biomasses, averaging 3.30 T/ha with peaks of 20 T/ha. Marquesan waters exhibit exceptional endemism relative to their size (3,400 km²), with 13.7% of coastal fish and 10% of mollusc species found nowhere else. Marquesan coastal communities are a major centre of Indo-Pacific and global endemism, along with Hawaii, Easter Island and the Red Sea. Recognized as one of the last remaining wild marine areas on the planet, the Marquesas' waters harbour some of the best-preserved coastal ecosystems worldwide. On land, the property protects two continuous vegetation corridors from summit to shore and includes four distinct tropical cloud forest ecosystems.

Criterion (x): The property harbours exceptionally well-preserved and irreplaceable marine and terrestrial ecosystems. The isolation of the young volcanic islands of the Marquesas archipelago has given rise to rare and diverse plant life, and more than half of the property's 305 plant species are irreplaceable. Endemism is particularly high in dry and semi-dry coastal forests, as well as in the mesic and ombrophilous forests of the highlands. The cloud forests that cover the ridges and peaks of the islands of Nuku Hiva, Ua Pou, Tahuata and Fatu Iva are home to over 70% of the endemic species of a peak, island or archipelago. The majority of land and freshwater molluscs are endemic to the islands. The archipelago supports one of the most diverse assemblages of seabirds in the tropical waters of the South Pacific. It is one of the world's few known nesting sites for 21 species of seabirds and 13 species and subspecies of land birds endemic to the archipelago. Fatu Iva and Tahuata are home to two endangered endemic species: respectively the òmaò keekee, with around 30 individuals, and the pahi, estimated at fewer than 300 individuals in 2017. The property is home to many endangered species such as the pītai, ùpe and kōtuè. The coastal marine ecosystem supports 40 notable species, many of which are globally endangered, including 16 marine mammals, 26 species of rays and sharks, and one endangered sea turtle, all concentrated around the 12 islands of the archipelago. Over 40% of fish species are endemic to the ecoregion, inhabiting a range of shoal areas, marine, brackish, and freshwater environments.

Integrity

The valley was the territorial unit of the chiefdoms, and the boundaries of the constituent elements of Te Henua Enata – The Marquesas Islands reflect this by including the entire valley territory, from the top of the ridges down to the coastline and adjacent marine areas, with the exception of modern settlement areas, which are included in the buffer zone.

Taken as a whole, the seven components provide a comprehensive representation of the Enata way of life and the territorial, spatial, social and spiritual organization of their societies up to the 19th century. The abandonment of the ancient settlements has shielded them from human activity, preserving their archaeological remains in situ.

Only certain sites in the Hatiheu, Taaoa and Puamau valleys have been cleared and restored. The restoration of certain tohuas for festivals (Matavaa) was an opportunity to return them to their original use as public spaces for traditional celebrations and events. Most archaeological sites remain protected due to their remoteness and dense vegetation cover. However, the proliferation of invasive plant species, such as acacia and Java plum trees, has affected the legibility and structural integrity of some sites, with some stones being displaced by tree roots. Feral animals are also causing erosion.

The impacts of climate change, including a gradual rise in sea level and increasingly frequent and prolonged droughts, have already been observed and are expected to intensify in the future, along with other unforeseen consequences.

The archipelago's island and seascape are virtually untouched, and the small human population is concentrated along the coast. Eighty-eight percent of the archipelago's plant diversity is represented within the property. The property also includes 100% of the seabird diversity—21 nesting species—and 78% of the land bird diversity. All the watersheds and major rivers are included within the property, while 91% of freshwater fish and crustacean species are represented. The plant formations are well preserved but highly vulnerable to biological invasion. The most significant plant species threatening the site's integrity include Falcata, Miconia, Acacia, and the African tulip tree. Agricultural activities, along with roaming animals and uncontrolled fires, exert pressure at mid-altitude, which must be managed locally. The least disturbed ecosystems of the Marquesas are found at altitudes between 800 and 1.200 m.

The property protects all coastal waters that support the life cycle of seabirds, coastal fish, molluscs and 43 notable marine species that reside in or visit these waters. Recognized as the world's most pristine coastal marine province, the Marquesas' waters exhibit exceptional food web integrity, with remarkable coastal fish biomass and an unusually high proportion of top predators. The effects of climate change on species distribution, life traits, and life cycles remain unpredictable. The property includes the entire length of the archipelago's four richest rivers, as well as two continuous vegetation corridors, ensuring essential functions for species life cycles and facilitating their adaptation.

Authenticity

Most of the archaeological sites in Te Henua Enata – The Marquesas Islands have not undergone prior interventions or restoration, leaving them entirely authentic in form, design, materials, and substance. Previous restoration efforts targeting certain archaeological sites, in part motivated by the Marquesas Islands Arts and Culture Festival (Matavaa o te Henua Ènana), were mostly conducted under professional supervision.

The spirit and atmosphere of the sites where the archaeological remains are located, along with their tangible reflection of ancestral activities, are still deeply felt by contemporary Marquesans. Despite the demographic shock and the acculturation to European traditions and practices, the oral transmission of stories, myths and legends within families, combined with the writings by early visitors and the ethnographic studies undertaken in the late 19th century, has preserved important knowledge about the history and social significance of these places.

Protection and management requirements

A complete inventory of archaeological remains and the designation of key sites as historical monuments under the Polynesian Heritage Code are essential conditions for the protection and management of the site. The General

Development Plan (PGA), that applies to the entire territory of the six municipalities of the Marquesas Islands is essential for setting landscape regulations, both for the property and the buffer zones. Special regulatory requirements for the property and the buffer zone will be incorporated into the PGA, in line with the commitments made by the six Marquesas municipalities within the Communauté de Communes des Îles Marquises (CODIM) and the French Polynesian authorities. Effective management planning must also be ensured by integrating the provisions of the General Development Plan with those of the property management plan.

Governance of the property is shared by a management committee, co-chaired by the French Polynesian Minister of Culture, Environment, and Marine Resources, along with the Community of Municipalities of the Marquesas Islands (CODIM). Day-to-day management is delegated to a coordination unit responsible for implementing the management plan, centralizing information and coordinating actions, as well as coordinating the network of six local World Heritage associations (one per island), among other tasks. Appropriate financial and human resources are needed to ensure that the coordination unit can fulfil its mandate and responsibilities.

Regular maintenance and vegetation control of the architectural sites are critical to preventing structural degradation and mitigating climate-related risks. A comprehensive strategy for invasive species management is required, incorporating prevention, early detection, and eradication measures to safeguard the site's cultural and natural values. Additionally, efforts to promote sustainable agricultural practices near the property, limit fire outbreaks, and restrict access for roaming animals will contribute to long-term conservation of the property.

Long-term conservation and management expectations for the serial property depend on integrating cultural and natural heritage into the management system. This includes recognizing the interdependence of cultural and natural values, identifying attributes reflecting this interdependence, establishing a joint program to monitor conservation status, integrating cultural and natural significance in interpretation and enhancement efforts, fostering institutional collaboration, and ensuring participatory decision-making processes. The effectiveness of this integrated management system must be assessed and improved over time.

The sites classified under the Environment Code include two Category V protected landscapes (Hohoi Bay on Ua Pou and Hanavave Bay on Fatu Iva) and two Category IV habitat and species management areas (Eiao and Hatu Tu). All Polynesian waters are a sanctuary for marine mammals and all shark species. Industrial fishing is prohibited within the property. Species protection regulations prohibit the harvesting of species from their natural environment and the alteration of their natural habitat. These regulations cover 164 plant species, 39 bird species, all marine mammals, sharks, rays and sea turtles, as well as certain terrestrial and marine molluscs. The sectors of fishing, agriculture, and biosecurity also include regulatory protections, particularly concerning pesticide reduction or prohibition and strengthened efforts against invasive exotic species.

The strategy to combat invasive species is a shared priority for preserving the property's cultural and natural values. It includes measures to prevent their introduction and spread, as well as early detection and eradication measures. Environmental impact assessments should include an analysis of the potential impact on the integrity and authenticity of the property. In agricultural areas adjacent to the property, management efforts will focus on promoting sustainable agricultural practices, limiting and containing fire outbreaks, and restricting areas accessible to roaming animals. Planning regulations and conservation measures may be enhanced based on the inventory of scenic viewpoints, key archaeological sites, property access points, and visitor centres.

For local management of the property, World Heritage Associations will be created in each of the archipelago's six municipalities, to support the involvement of local residents, associations and professionals. Alongside the actions undertaken by the country's technical departments, these associations participate in implementing the operational aspects of the management plan, whose strategic guidelines are defined by the management committee, co-chaired by the Minister of Culture, Environment, and Marine Resources of French Polynesia and the President of CODIM. The management structure is jointly led by the Ministry, CODIM, and the six World Heritage associations through a coordination unit. Participatory governance of the property is essential to ensure that the management plan is firmly rooted at the local level and to benefit from the effectiveness of traditional practices.

Property	Volcanoes and Forests of Mount Pelée and the Pitons of Northern Martinique
State Party	France
ID No.	1657
Date of inscription	2023

Brief synthesis

Located in the north of Martinique, at the centre of the Lesser Antilles island arc, the Volcanoes and Forests of Mount Pelée and the Pitons of Northern Martinique form a mountainous forest property of volcanic origin. The site consists of two distinct areas covering 13,980 hectares: the older Pitons du Carbet and Morne Jacob massifs in the south, and the younger Montagne Pelée and Piton Mont Conil massifs in the north. The property features all the forest types of the Lesser Antilles, from the coastline to the summits, including both climax forests and ancient secondary forests. It bears witness to a geological history that is the foundation of exceptional geodiversity and biodiversity, remarkably well-preserved.

In the north of the island, Mount Pelée majestically rises, reaching an altitude of 1,396 metres. It is inseparably linked to a major event in the history of modern volcanology, which gave its name to the Pelean eruptive type: the 1902 eruption, which resulted in the death of nearly 30,000 people and the destruction of the city of Saint-Pierre on 8 May. As for the Pitons du Carbet, they form lava domes with extremely elevated shapes, with the highest point, the Piton Lacroix, rising to 1,197 metres. Due to their number and height, they represent a remarkable example of a very rare geological phenomenon.

On each of these two entities, the property features core areas of climax forests and an unbroken continuity of plant ecosystems extending from the coastline to the summits of Mount Pelée and of the Pitons du Carbet. These volcanic areas are home to excellent examples of very ancient humid forests. The lower-altitude, drier forests are also exceptionally well-preserved for tropical volcanic islands. The flora and fauna, particularly the endemic species, are remarkable. The property is located within an area recognised by the international scientific community as one of the most irreplaceable in the world.

Criterion (viii): The Pitons du Carbet and Mount Pelée are remarkable illustrations of the volcanic morphologies and mechanisms characteristic of the Lesser Antilles island arc. The Pitons du Carbet, in particular, consist of highly elevated lava domes, a result of the great viscosity of the magmas from which they were formed. The scar from the flank destabilisation that enabled their development is the largest in the Lesser Antilles archipelago. There are twelve of these formations, five of which exceed 1,000 metres in altitude, making them the most representative examples of this geological phenomenon, which is otherwise only observed in Saint Lucia. The highest, the Piton Lacroix, reaches 1,197 metres, making it the highest in the world for the geological process from which it originated.

An iconic volcano, Mount Pelée features a unique eruptive type: the lava dome with laterally directed explosions, notable for the frequency of its past eruptions.

The eruption episode of Mount Pelée from 1902 to 1905 was particularly significant. In fact, the pyroclastic flow on May 8, 1902, led to the death of 28,000 people in the minutes following the explosion. In an extremely rare occurrence, during the 1902 eruption, 7 successive explosions took place, resulting in the formation of a 350-metrehigh needle, the tallest known to have formed during any dome eruption. This eruption is a global reference in the history of volcanology, as it helped describe one of the major types of volcanic eruptions: the Pelean type. The site remains, to this day, a key location for the study of Earth sciences.

Criterion (x): The property is located within a globally recognised priority biodiversity conservation area: the "Caribbean Islands" biodiversity hotspot. It hosts the most diverse and well-preserved forest continuum in the Lesser Antilles. This vegetation cover is characterised by the quality and completeness of the forest successions, which encompass all the forest types native to Martinique and the Lesser Antilles. In the heart of the north-western slopes of the Piton Mount Conil massif, on the lower slopes of Pain de Sucre, and on the reliefs of Morne Jacob, undisturbed climax vegetation formations are preserved, particularly mesophilic and hygrophilic forest types.

The property is home to an exceptional flora comprising 1,058 species of native vascular plants, including 816 spermatophytes and 242 pteridophytes. Among these, 51 species are threatened, such as the Calumet Montagne, the Fleur-Boule-Montagne, and the Aralie. The property provides a critical habitat to ensure their long-term conservation.

The flora of the property is representative of the rich plant diversity of the Lesser Antilles and exhibits a high rate of regional endemism. There are 263 species of regionally endemic spermatophytes (Lesser Antilles), of which Martinique alone is home to 186 species, representing 71%. The island also features the most significant and representative strict endemism in spermatophytes within the Lesser Antilles, with 37 of the 104 species found along the arc. The property is home to 33 of these endemic species, accounting for one-third of the strictly endemic species of an island within the Lesser Antilles. These include: the wild pineapple, the bwa débas blan and krékré wouj. Their presence is sometimes limited to a few locations within a single entity of the property. The tree flora is also particularly rich, representing 87% of the tree flora of the Lesser Antilles (i.e., 401 species).

The animal biodiversity further enriches the property, as it is home to numerous remarkable and endemic species, such as the Martinique volcano frog, the Martinique bat, the Martinique lancehead, and the Martinique oriole.

Integrity

The property includes two of the most remarkable examples of volcanism in the Lesser Antilles arc. Mount Pelée is the best-preserved stratovolcano in the Caribbean and the last active volcano in Martinique. The current summit consists of the nested domes formed by the eruptions of 1902 and 1929, with the extrusion known as "le Chinois" being the highest point at 1,397 metres. The extremely elevated and rugged morphology of the Pitons du Carbet gives them a remarkable resistance to various pressures. A number of geosites considered important are located in the buffer zone and deserve protection through the implementation of prefectural decrees for the protection of geotopes.

The massifs are naturally protected by strong accessibility constraints. Most of the areas consist of very ancient humid forests that remain distant from inhabited zones and are served by rare trails, now barely used, most of which have been erased by the regrowth of vegetation.

In the drier forests (mesophilic and xeromesophilic), the majority of the natural spaces within the continuum are in advanced evolutionary stages, over a hundred years old. Like other Caribbean islands, various types of human

activities, from the pre-Columbian period to the colonial era, have caused localised changes to the environment (such as Creole gardens or cash crops) in the lower parts of the massifs. Some remnants and traces of these former occupations still exist today, where the forest has gradually reclaimed the land. This slow and gradual process of recovery over such a vast area is unique to Martinique and unparalleled in the Antillean arc.

Protection and management requirements

The property is located within the *Parc Naturel Régional de la Martinique* (PNRM). The majority of the property benefits from strong national protection measures. Three integral biological reserves (RBI), established by ministerial decrees in 2007 (RBI Mount Pelée) and 2014 (RBI Pitons du Carbet and RBI Prêcheur/Grand'Rivière), ensure the protection of the massifs and the natural evolution of forest ecosystems. The Piton Mount Conil area has been protected by decree since 1996, as a classified site under the Environmental Code (1930 law). Furthermore, since 2010, two prefectural decrees for the protection of biotopes have ensured the preservation of natural habitats for two threatened species. The property is primarily under public ownership: state-owned forest and land owned by the Conservatoire du littoral. Since 2019, these public forests in northern Martinique have been nationally recognised with the "Forêt d'exception" label.

As part of these various protections, specific management plans have been developed. These management and enhancement documents are aligned with the property's management plan. The plan also includes cooperative actions with other properties in the Caribbean, particularly in terms of management and the improvement of scientific knowledge.

The management structure of the property is led by the *Parc Naturel Régional de la Martinique*, under the delegation of the *Collectivité territoriale de la Martinique*. It relies on a management team composed of the *Office national des forêts* (ONF), the *Collectivité territoriale de la Martinique* (CTM), and the State. The ONF manages 80% of the property's forests. The property benefits from a sustainable financing strategy to ensure its long-term management. The management committee will focus on strengthening management capacities, particularly regarding the protection and conservation of geological values.

The threats to the property are properly identified and managed, and the involvement of all relevant structures is necessary to regulate activities in the buffer zone and prevent any impacts within this area. The PNRM Charter for 2012-2027 includes a zoning system for the buffer zone, which will need to be renewed after 2027. In the buffer zone, geosites are vulnerable to the impacts of urbanization, infrastructure maintenance or creation, and the exploitation or expansion of quarries. Some of these geosites are located in the buffer zone in areas of high-activity and require enhanced protection and monitoring.

Regarding biodiversity values, certain threats identified in the buffer zone are receiving particular attention: deforestation and forestry activities, hunting, wind farms, invasive exotic species, and tourism. Deforestation and habitat degradation are potential threats to approximately 20% of the property owned by private landowners. However, these threats appear to be under control due to natural hazard prevention measures and the challenging accessibility of these areas. Hunting is not practiced within the property itself but occurs in some parts of the buffer zone. Precise monitoring is necessary to avoid any indirect negative impact on bird populations when their distribution extends beyond the property and into the buffer zone.

Scientific knowledge about the threats posed by invasive exotic species is extensive, and all organisations involved in managing the property have the necessary human resources to address this challenge (control, detection, and eradication measures). Tourism and outdoor recreational activities are strictly regulated within the property, particularly activities such as hiking, running, and canyoning in the ravines. A significant increase in tourism activities within the property could pose a threat through trail erosion and waste production.

Property	Hegmataneh
State Party	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
ID No.	1716
Date of inscription	2024

Brief synthesis

Hegmataneh is amongst the ancient cities of the Middle East perceived as the capital of the Medes Empire and continued to be one of the most important government seats through the Achaemenid, Parthian, Sasanian, and Islamic periods. The site's name is interpreted as taken from the term "Hangmata", meaning "gathering place". In ancient sources, Hegmataneh is mentioned under different names, such as "Ecbatana, Egbatana" in Greek and "Ecbatana, Ecbatanis Partierum" in Latin. Herodotus refers to a gathering of the Medes wherein Diaco (Dayukku) was appointed king. Hegmataneh, perceived as the capital of the Medes Empire, continued to serve as the summer capital and an important government seat in later periods, including the Achaemenid and Parthian eras.

Criterion (ii): Hegmataneh exhibits important evidence of the cultural interchanges among the cultures and civilisations of the Middle East in antiquity. The archaeological remains of town planning and architecture of the Parthian period, as well as the presence of artefacts made for the royal palaces in Susa and Persepolis, testify to

the craftsmanship of the masters of Hegmataneh and the transfer of knowledge from Hegmataneh to other major ancient cities.

Criterion (iii): Hegmataneh, one of the ancient government seats in the Middle East, provides exceptional evidence of the cultural, social, economic and political developments in the Iranian Plateau in the 1st millennium BCE. The property provides important and rare evidence of the Medes civilisation and important evidence of the cultures and civilisations that successively occupied the city. Among these, the archaeological remains of the Parthian era present an exceptional testimony of the creative planning and architectural solutions developed through interactions amongst diverse ethnicities and religions.

Integrity

The Hegmataneh Hill archaeological site includes the archaeological remains from the Median, Achaemenid, Parthian and Sasanian periods that have remained largely intact.

Authenticity

The archaeological evidence of the Median, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras is preserved in situ on the Hegmataneh Hill archaeological site and museum. The excavated mudbrick walls have been conserved using various methods: covered with an overhead canopy, plastered with a layer of a traditional mix of mud and straw, covered with soil, or encased in protective shells. Some parts of the Hegmataneh fortification walls have been reconstructed with traditional materials for interpretation purposes.

Protection and management requirements

The property is owned and managed by the state and fully protected by law. National law and bylaws, such as the Law for Protection of National Heritage (1930), the Bylaw Concerning Prevention of Unauthorised Excavation (1980), and the Bylaw on Conservation of Iranian Cultural Heritage (2002), regulate different aspects concerning protection, conservation, maintenance, and development. The national development plans and strategy documents, as well as conservation standards prepared by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran (IMCHTH) provide an additional set of national protective measures for the property.

The Hegmataneh Base, the site management body of the IMCHTH, is the primary management authority for the property and its buffer zone. It is directly responsible for all conservation actions, planning, and coordination in the designated property and its buffer zone. The activities of the Base are supervised by the Hamedan Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Head Office and the IMCHTH through its provincial branch. The work of the Base is supported by a Steering Committee and a Technical Committee. The Steering Committee ensures administrative coordination among the central and local state bodies, academia, and experts. It also approves annual management plans, research project proposals, and annual technical reports by the Base. The Technical Committee manages the technical conservation issues and monitoring of the property via cross-sectoral working groups for restoration, social policies, training, tourism, economic planning, security, urban services, and infrastructure. The Hegmataneh Base has an adequate budget and level of staffing to fulfil its statutory duties.

Tourism is among the priorities for the development of the historic city and is included in different urban plans and strategies. The National Tourism Development Plan and the Comprehensive Tourism Plan of Hamedan Province provide the policy framework for planning tourism development in the area. There is no visitor pressure in the property except during Nowruz (Iranian New Year), when the pressure is mitigated by increasing the number of guards and guides and improving guidance for visitors to the archaeological sites. Planning, monitoring, and developing tourism and tourist products is the responsibility of the provincial branch of the IMCHTH, while the Hegmataneh Base manages visitors at the archaeological sites. Development of the tourism infrastructure is amongst the components of the short-, medium-, and long-term objectives of the management plan, which includes actions such as adapting historic buildings for tourism purposes, improving public spaces, lighting and street furniture, updating the entrance control system of the Hegmataneh archaeological site, enhancing tourist routes and visitor facilities, managing visitation time, educating visitors, training tour guides, and improving security.

There is an adequate legal and policy framework to encourage public participation in heritage conservation, as well as in cultural and economic life in general. Various departments of the provincial Office of the Governor-General, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting in Hamedan, non-governmental organisations, as well as the Hegmataneh Base and the IMCHTH, share the responsibility for ensuring the participation of local communities, including women and youth, in different activities and programmes. Participation of local communities in the management of the property is enabled through the Steering Committee of the Base. The representatives of the Committee are drawn mostly from institutional partners. The link with the community is made through the chairpersons or representatives of the Chamber of Guilds, City Council, and non-governmental organisations.

Property	Evaporitic Karst and Caves of Northern Apennines
State Party	Italy
ID No.	1692
Date of inscription	2023

Brief synthesis

The Evaporitic Karst and Caves of Northern Apennines (EKCNA) constitute a globally exceptional, complete, outstanding and accessible example of the phenomenon of evaporitic karst formed in gypsum and anhydrite. Located in northern Italy, this serial property is situated in a very narrow belt of vertical cliffs emerging from surrounding clays. It unites the first and best-studied evaporitic karst areas that have played a key role in the historical understanding of gypsum karst and evolution, and contributed to the early development of speleology, mineralogy and hydrogeology.

The evaporitic rocks of this property were deposited in two distinct geological periods: the breakup of the supercontinent Pangea (c. 200 million years ago), and during the ecological catastrophe when the Mediterranean Sea largely evaporated (c. 6 million years ago). The present cave systems developed in these two formations, over the last 500,000 years.

The property hosts examples of the mineralogical evolution of gypsum, including its transformation into anhydrite and alabaster, and many speleothems and minerals, reflecting complex relationships between rocks, hydrogeology and climate. The property has a very high density of caves, including some of the largest, deepest and most complex of their type. It also includes the evaporitic cave with the largest vertical drop in the world, the world's largest surface water-formed karst cave and the largest karst salt spring in Europe.

Many caves have been explored since prehistoric times, and their associated historical values include being one of the first excavation areas of *lapis specularis*, stunning transparent crystals that were used as glass during Roman times.

Criterion (viii): The property comprises a globally exceptional and complete illustration of gypsum-anhydrite karst systems. It can be considered as the area with the most well-studied, most accessible, more comprehensively displayed and better protected epigenic gypsum cave systems in the world. The property contains an exceptional diversity of well-documented chemical deposits and minerals associated with gypsum caves and karst. It also holds an outstanding density of caves in its relatively small area, with 900 caves totalling a combined length of over 100 km, including the longest epigenic cave in gypsum (11.5 km long, Spipola-Aquafredda-Prete Santo cave system), among the deepest known cave in gypsum in the world (-265 m) and one of the largest hydrogeological tunnels in gypsum worldwide (over 7 km long). The property also contains an unusually high density of superficial karst forms, the largest gypsum cones described (2 m in diameter and 2 m high), as well as salt springs, minerals, speleothems, and hypogean bends. It represents a complete collection of epigean and hypogean karst morphologies, from the dissolution surfaces in vertically exposed gypsum cliffs to the speleothems in the abysses of the caves.

Integrity

The property's nine component parts are located in the extensive evaporitic rocks of the northern Apennine chain and ensure a complete representation of karst phenomena in gypsum and anhydrite. This includes the outcropping and underground karst areas, the main karst aquifers, and their recharge areas.

The state of conservation of the karst biotic and abiotic systems is excellent. The continuity of the karst hydrological system, above and below ground, is well preserved in all of the component parts. The few caves open to the public provide a high quality speleological experience, without alterations of the natural conditions and associated habitats.

Pressures from human settlements and development are low, although some component parts are close to metropolitan areas. Agriculture, where present, is limited, and the management of the remaining forests is aimed at conserving their undisturbed values as wild areas. Gypsum quarrying has affected the property, since Roman times, but is now prohibited.

It is nevertheless recognised that the boundaries of the property at the time of inscription require further adjustment to ensure that all of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value are included within the inscribed area.

Protection and management requirements

The evaporitic karst areas of the property are identified and strictly protected by a specific geological and speleological heritage protection act, and in accordance with European, national and regional regulations. The great majority (96%) of the property is protected by European Union directives and is part of the Natura 2000 Network. Most of the property (71%) is further protected by a national park and by two regional parks. The remaining areas are legally protected by nature reserves and protected landscapes.

The areas surrounding the property are subject to the territorial and landscape planning regulations of the Emilia-Romagna Region, which establish the framework for the management of the territory of the property and its surroundings. There is a need to ensure that the entire property, its attributes, and its buffer zones are subject to a complete, continuing and coherent legal protection regime targeting the property's geological values, without any gaps in spatial coverage. Similarly, it will be important to ensure that the Appennino Tosco-Emiliano Biosphere

Reserve zonation is aligned with the management of the component parts. A single unified protection system for all the component parts of the serial property, integrating the different systems in place at the time of inscription, will facilitate more effective management of the property.

At the time of inscription, the management system consisted of two bodies: the Appennino Tosco-Emiliano National Park and the Emilia-Romagna Region. The latter directly supervises the management bodies of the regional protected areas. These management bodies have a management plan, a specific budget and dedicated technical and administrative staff to manage and control the different protected areas.

A dedicated management structure orientated to World Heritage has been established upon inscription and the resulting finalised management strategy has been maintained and updated. This strategy includes a governance agreement that mutually commits the current management bodies to the conservation of the property (EKCNA Agreement), the establishment of a dedicated World Heritage coordination office (EKCNA focal point) and a shared action plan to ensure an effective long-term protection of the property's natural values and attributes.

Key management requirements centre on the protection of the attributes and values of the geological heritage and conservation of the hydrological karst system.

It is important to ensure that the management requirements on which the inscription was based are clearly communicated and understood by all stakeholders, landowners and different management authorities. In addition, continuous and sufficient funding, specifically provided for the management of the serial World Heritage property, ensures the inclusion of effective and sufficient geoheritage and geoconservation knowledge and expertise.

Protective status ensures that quarrying is prohibited within the property. To maintain the excellent state of conservation at the time of inscription, it is essential to ensure the restoration of former quarry sites. A guiding example at the time of inscription is the commitment not to extend the permit for quarrying in the Monte Tondo quarry, located in the buffer zone of the property, and to commence restoration activity as soon as practical. A visitor management plan is required to identify areas of expected high levels of visitation and define the carrying capacity for these areas.

The management of the property is complemented by effective geological and geomorphological education and interpretation programmes, and there is a need to ensure a continuously enhanced quality of visitor experience in the areas that are accessible to the public, including in the restored former quarry areas.

A long-term monitoring system involves surface and underground observation to evaluate the chemical and ecological state of karst aquifers, seismo-tectonic movements, and climate cave conditions. Key aspects of the property's flora and fauna are also monitored, to inform the essential complementary conservation and protection measures for the important habitats and species within the property and its surroundings.

Property	Sado Island Gold Mines
State Party	Japan
ID No.	1698
Date of inscription	2024

Brief synthesis

The Sado Island Gold Mines is a serial property located on Sado Island, some thirty-five kilometres west of the Niigata Prefecture coast. It is formed of three component parts articulated around two main mining areas – the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine and the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine – illustrative of different unmechanised mining methods implemented during the Edo period (1603-1868). The first cluster covers a large mining area used for placer gold mining, including waterways necessary for placer mining. The second cluster includes two component parts connected by a route today interrupted for a short section and corresponding to the Nishi-Ikari-michi and Tsurushi-michi Pass. The two component parts of the second cluster cover two different mining areas – the Tsurushi Silver Mine and the Aikawa Gold and Silver Mine Area. The latter also includes part of the Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, in which the remains of the Sado Magistrate's Office are found. Mostly tangible attributes reflecting mining activities and social and labour organisation are preserved as archaeological elements, both above and below ground, and landscape features.

The Sado Island Gold Mines forms an exceptional mining ensemble and landscape demonstrating the continuation and perfection of unmechanised mining and processing technology in a period when, elsewhere in the world, mechanisation was spreading in the mining industry.

Criterion (iv): The Sado Gold Mines is an exceptional example in the Asian context of the continuity of manual mining and smelting technology in a period when mechanisation was progressively being introduced elsewhere. The management system and social and work organisation deployed by the Tokugawa Shogunate at Sado made it possible to extract and process considerable quantities of high-quality gold for global standards in the 17th century. This is reflected in the mining area and settlement organisation. Based on the characteristics of ore deposits found on Sado Island, the Shogunate applied and integrated production organisation and methods most suitable for

extracting and processing the ore. To guarantee the efficiency of operation, settlement, mining and processing functions coexisted in the same areas or in close proximity to one another.

Integrity

The Sado Island Gold Mines comprises the most important areas reflecting gold production processes applied on Sado Island during the Tokugawa Shogunate, such as mining methods adapted to different types of deposits, a series of production processes, and the transition of the controlled settlement system. The serial property comprises the two areas of the Nishimikawa Placer Gold Mine and the Aikawa-Tsurushi Gold and Silver Mine. It is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. A significant number of human-modified landforms, archaeological remains of mines, mining operations infrastructures and ore-dressing and smelting sites and the archaeological vestiges of associated settlements, survive both on the surface and underground within the property.

The component parts still retain their key features, as past mining and settlement zones, and have not been destroyed or significantly altered. The sites of mining and settlements within the property are, as a whole, well preserved and managed appropriately by the owners or the custodial bodies based upon appropriate legal frameworks.

Authenticity

In Sado Island Gold Mines, the location of the key activities, the layout of land arrangements and modifications to carry out mining activities or to adapt them for residential or production purposes, physical traces of mining-related operations such as tunnels, waterways, and headraces, terraces, post-holes, landforms, as well as of ore-processing and administrative functions demonstrate the past use and functions carried out at these sites. The settlement zones have maintained their original layout, although their built fabric has changed, as well as the way in which spaces are used. The key sources of information for the authenticity and understanding of the functioning of the serial property are represented by ancient documentary records, especially drawings and images. These documents are crucial for understanding and interpreting the remains still on site.

Protection and management requirements

All component parts are designated as Important Cultural Landscapes or Historic Sites under the national Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties. The Important Cultural Landscapes designation relates to the inhabited areas, such as Sasagawa and Aikawa-Kamimachi Town, while the Historic Sites designation covers the mining areas. Protection is extended also to natural or artificial topographic features. Activities in both types of designation are regulated by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, which operates at the national level. Sado Municipality has issued guidelines to provide support in case of interventions within protected landscapes. For projects that may have the potential to have negative impacts on the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value, heritage impact assessments will have to be carried out by the implementing body.

The buffer zone of Nishimikawa Area is protected under the Cultural Properties Act as an Important Cultural Landscape. The buffer zone for the Aikawa-Tsurushi component part is protected as Landscape Special District through the Landscape Act, including the portion encompassing the western offshore region of the buffer zone. A considerable portion of the land-based buffer zone to the west of Aikawa is also identified as an Important Cultural Landscape and hence protected under the Cultural Properties Act. This extends into the offshore region.

The heritage management system has established processes and protocols for ensuring connection and coordination at the national, prefectural and local government levels. The legislative and institutional frameworks ensure the protection of all three areas with a transparent hierarchy and referral of controls and decisions. Community engagement is enshrined in social processes and approaches from the national level down. The Sado City government structure allows for conservation activities to be complemented with programmes across other divisional areas, such as museums and tourism. It also allows for engagement with stakeholder entities, including the commercial and private sectors. A World Heritage Council will be established as a decision-making collegial body regarding World Heritage matters. The Council will be administered by Niigata Prefecture. Putting into operation decisions taken by the Council was the responsibility of the World Heritage departments of the Niigata Prefecture and Sado City.

A Comprehensive Management Plan acts as an umbrella document to clarify policies, procedures, concrete measures and the administrative management system. This plan is supported by existing preservation and management plans for the component parts (i.e. Nishimikawa, Tsurushi and Aikawa). Appropriate interpretation strategies are essential for understanding and communicating clearly and comprehensively the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and its historic development.

In the context of multiple land ownerships, both government and private, and local residents across the property, the Comprehensive Management Plan provides guidance through flowcharts on decision-making processes and the operation of activities such as heritage impact assessments. It includes a section that provides for the roles of various stakeholders, including each level of government responsibility. Regarding some key stakeholders, such as Golden Sado, it is indicated that appropriate agreements will be made, including aspects such as management, public access and use.

Property	Cold Winter Deserts of Turan
States Parties	Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
ID No.	1693
Date of inscription	2023

Brief synthesis

The Cold Winter Deserts of Turan is a transnational serial property shared by Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The property comprises 14 component parts distributed across arid areas of Central Asia's temperate zone between the Caspian Sea and the Turanian high mountains system. The property is subject to extreme climatic conditions with minimal levels of precipitation, very cold winters and hot summers. In spite of these extreme conditions, the property boasts an exceptionally diverse flora and fauna that has adapted to the harsh conditions. The property also represents a considerable diversity of desert ecosystems, their evolution, functions and natural dynamics, covering Turan Deserts from the mountain depressions and piedmonts of Altyn-Emel to the gypsum deserts of Southern Ustyurt, spanning a distance of more than 1,500 kilometres from East to West. Each of the component parts has its own specifics, and at the same time, they complement each other in terms of biodiversity, desert types, and ongoing ecological processes. The component parts located in the Aral Sea region represent the desert ecosystem and not the wetland ecosystem of the Aral Sea itself as they were present before desiccation of the sea and hold attributes that reflect the biodiversity values of the Turanian deserts. The property consists of a vast area of 3,366,441 hectares, with buffer zones adding up to a total of 622,812 hectares.

Criterion (ix): The serial property represents the cold winter deserts as an outstanding example of the development of terrestrial ecosystems in extreme climate conditions and of the evolution of survival and adaptation strategies of plants and animals as ongoing ecological and biological processes. The 14 component parts include diverse geomorphological desert types, which are reflected by different ecosystems. It is representative of most of the ecological-physiographic vegetation types in the Turan deserts: sagebrush and perennial saltwort vegetation; psammophytic vegetation, i.e. desert grasses; saxaul shrubs and woodland. Taxonomic diversification and morphological convergence of plants are significant ongoing biological processes. Saxaul woodland demonstrates the ability of desert ecosystems for ongoing carbon sequestration and storage. Morphological, physiological and behavioural adaptations ensure survival of animal life as a fundamental ongoing process within the cold winter deserts of Turan. The component parts are important to the migration of migratory birds and ungulate species and serve as node points for migratory species and their dispersal across wider areas in the region.

Criterion (x): The serial property hosts very specific and diverse flora and fauna, adapted to the extreme climatic conditions of the Cold Winter Deserts of Turan. The species diversity is high, including diversity hotspots of Chenopodiaceae and plant genera of different families such as Artemisia, Calligonum, Salsola, Zygophyllum or Limonium, including a high share of endemic species. The property hosts numerous breeding birds, and important resting places of migrating bird species, as well as desert-adapted herpetofauna and insects. The Cold Winter Deserts of Turan are the habitat of globally threatened mammals, such as Goitered Gazelle, Saiga and Urial. Further important species that occur in component parts of the property include Kulan, Snow Leopard, Marbled Polecat and Striped Hyena as well as Asian Houbara, Great Bustard, Saker Falcon, White-headed Duck, Egyptian Vulture and Steppe Tortoise.

Integrity

The property's 14 component parts are representative of the Turanian cold winter deserts. They include the most intact examples of desert ecosystems within legally protected areas. The serial property covers a total of 3,366,441 hectares, with some component parts benefitting from buffer zones with a combined area of 622,812 hectares. The ecosystems fulfil their ecological functions and host the characteristic plant and animal diversity of cold winter deserts. The component parts located in the Aral Sea region represent the desert ecosystem and not the wetland ecosystem of the Aral Sea itself as they were present before desiccation of the sea and hold attributes that reflect the biodiversity values of the Turanian deserts.

Most of the 14 component parts are very remote and far from settlements. However, historical population decline of ungulate species has occurred across the region due to poaching, and significant barriers to migration exist through the border fencing, causing disruption to migratory routes. Further threats to the property include linear infrastructure, such as tracks, roads, border fences, railways and canals, affecting connectivity as well as continued poaching and grazing by livestock. Overgrazing by livestock in the areas outside the property can also cause threats to ungulates as it affects their food source availability. The overall threat level is low at the time of inscription but these threats will require close attention, including through monitoring and mitigation action.

Protection and management requirements

All 14 component parts of the property are publicly owned and protected by the relevant national legislation of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and are managed on the basis of specific management plans by state administrations under the responsibility of the relevant ministries. It will be essential for each component part of the property to maintain the strict protection regime in the long term. The three component parts of the Altyn Emel cluster in Kazakhstan are encompassed by the Altyn-Emel National Park, while another two components are part of Barsakelmes State Nature Reserve. The component parts in Turkmenistan are fully covered by Nature

Sanctuaries and State Nature Reserves. In Uzbekistan, the Southern Ustyurt component part corresponds with the Southern Ustyurt National Park whilst the component parts of Saigachy-Duana, Saigachy-Zhidely and Saigachy-Beleuli are covered by the Saigachy complex (landscape) reserve, which is managed as a wilderness area.

The priority management objective for all 14 component parts is to ensure the ecosystem integrity of desert landscapes, including their biological diversity of plants and animals. Each of the component parts benefit from well-defined governance frameworks and management plans as well as staff with growing technical capacities in essential areas of expertise. There are various projects in support of the management of the component parts, including on monitoring and patrolling which will need to be continued along with continued capacity development in relation to the threats, size of the areas and future management objectives, including sustainable tourism not exceeding the carrying capacity and affecting the fragile desert ecosystem.

The transnational management will be ensured by a Joint Steering Committee with responsible representatives of all three States Parties on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding, signed on 10 January 2022. The Memorandum commits the States Parties of the property to effective transnational management and protection mechanisms, according to the Operational Guidelines. The joint management is to be implemented and coordinated through the Joint Steering Committee, including through exchanges on the individual and national management plans, by staff exchange, joint public awareness campaigns and environmental education. It is important that the Joint Steering Committee also coordinates approaches to enhancing connectivity between the component parts and the wider landscape and that sufficient budget is allocated by the governments.

Property	Nyungwe National Park
State Party	Rwanda
ID No.	1697
Date of inscription	2023

Brief synthesis

Nyungwe National Park is one of the most biologically important and diverse Afromontane forests in Africa. Located in south-western Rwanda, the property constitutes part of the highly biodiverse Albertine Rift Ecoregion and comprises three component parts: Cyamudongo Natural Forest, Gisakura Natural Forest, and Nyungwe Natural Forest. Covering a total of 101,963.67 hectares, Nyungwe National Park is the largest remaining montane rainforest nationally and one of the largest areas of montane forest in this exceptionally rich ecoregion. The property is dominated by montane rainforest but includes a range of vegetation types and habitats, including high-altitude wetlands and savanna grasslands, with an altitude range from 1,480m to 2,950m. Due to the exceptional diversity of flora and fauna, including a high degree of endemicity, the property is considered among the most irreplaceable protected areas globally for the conservation of mammals, birds and amphibians.

Criterion (x): The property is home to a rich diversity of flora with a total of 1,468 species of vascular plants, including 73 globally threatened species. As for its fauna, the property hosts one of the most species-rich montane rainforest primate communities in Africa. One-fifth of Africa's primate species are present within the property, including the globally threatened Eastern Chimpanzee and Golden Monkey. The property also features the Albertine Rift race of the Angola Colobus as well as a population of l'Hoest's Monkey. There are 12 mammal and seven bird species that are globally threatened, including the Grey Parrot. The Grauer's Swamp-Warbler, endemic to the Albertine Rift, is estimated to have its second largest population in the Kamiranzovu swamp within the property. With 317 species of birds recorded, the property is one of the most important sites for bird conservation in Africa.

Nyungwe National Park is also an important site for endemism. There are 32 species of amphibians, 22 are Albertine Rift endemics of which two are endemic to the property. Of these, one amphibian is only known from its type locality in the Cyamudongo Natural Forest. The entomofauna is composed of at least 290 species of butterflies, including 47 species endemic to the Albertine Rift and 3 local endemic taxa. The Critically Endangered Hill's Horseshoe Bat is endemic to the property.

Integrity

The property's three component parts cover a total area of 101,963.67 hectares and are situated within Africa's largest remaining lower montane forest block. The boundaries of the property are congruent with those of the nationally designated Nyungwe National Park and although the Cyamudongo and Gisakura Natural Forest component parts are relatively small, collectively they do contain all of the key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.

Protection and management requirements

The property has been formally protected since 1933, initially designated as a forest reserve and elevated to national park status, as Nyungwe National Park, in 2005. The national park and its buffer zones are legally owned by the State. Law enforcement within the park is overseen with adequately resourced capacity available. The boundaries of the property are known to stakeholders and rights holders. The buffer zone of the Nyungwe Natural Forest component part, encompasses 10,085 hectares, buffering approximately 70% of the property. In contrast, the Cyamudongo Natural Forest and Gisakura Natural Forest lack designated buffer zones and are predominantly

surrounded by tea plantations and farmlands, which serve a buffering function. It is recognized that the buffer zone of the property could be extended and consolidated to ensure the further buffering of all attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. Alongside, enhancing connectivity of the component parts through the development of ecological corridors is envisaged.

The property has transitioned from a government management system to a public-private partnership with African Parks (a non-governmental organization with wide experience in nature conservation), for which the on-ground management is delegated to the Nyungwe Management Company. The management of the property is guided by a 10-year management plan, a five-year rolling business plan, a long-term sustainable strategy, and a tourism development plan. A long-term monitoring system to evaluate the state of wildlife populations and vegetation informs ongoing management activities, alongside surveillance of various threats, including poaching and illegal gold and coltan mining.

Despite the reduction in pressures since its designation as a national park and the high level of integrity of the property, pressures persist most significantly from incidents of encroachment, illegal mining and linear infrastructure and associated traffic. Community awareness and revenue-sharing programs have reduced the prevalence of anthropogenic forest fires, previously a significant threat to the property. The current international road that crosses the property is completely illuminated and utilized by heavy truck and bus traffic, leading to disturbances, wildlife mortality, and pollution.

To ensure the long-term protection of the property's biodiversity, it is essential to minimize road traffic through traffic management regulations and the upgraded alternative road to the north of the property is expected to reduce by 60% the traffic through the property. Continuous monitoring of the park and its boundaries is also crucial to prevent encroachment. Several reintroduction projects to restore locally extinct fauna (Savannah Elephant, Buffalo, Giant Forest Hog and Leopard) and to reinforce the Grey Parrot population are being considered. These initiatives will require careful planning and evaluation to ensure translocation is suitable and undertaken in accordance with international best practices.

Equally important is fostering positive relations with stakeholders, including the development of viable socio-economic alternatives for local communities in the peripheral regions of the park. Whilst large areas of the property are almost completely inaccessible, the property overlaps with densely populated districts. Therefore, careful consultations with stakeholders and rights-holders, including local communities and park management, are required. The Community Partnership Programme of Nyungwe National Park intends to ensure that communities benefit from the National Park. Several community-based cooperatives have been established in different zones to address specific issues: a surveillance cooperative as well as tea-producing, milk-producing, fish-farming, livestock-rearing, and honey-producing cooperatives. Local communities and private companies also contribute to enforcing the unauthorized access ban on the property. There are aspirations for domestic and international tourism development, which require support and careful planning to ensure an effective offer to visitors, continued protection of the property, and appropriate benefit sharing. The Tourism Revenue Sharing Programme ensures that 10% of total park revenues are put into a national fund that sponsors park neighbouring community projects, while an additional 5% is deposited in the special guarantee fund that compensates wildlife-caused damages.

Property	Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites
State Party	South Africa
ID No.	1676
Date of inscription	2024

Brief synthesis

The Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites, encapsulates the legacy of the South African liberation struggle of the 20th century. In this serial property the three tenets of human rights, liberation and reconciliation are inextricably bound together and overlapping the roles they played in the pursuit of peace and justice in South Africa. The interplay of these tenets paved the long road to freedom against the apartheid state. The struggle became known around the world which rallied behind those suffering and dehumanised by oppression. The serial property commemorates and celebrates the contribution of the struggle to human rights in a global context. Significantly, through its component parts and their symbolism, the World Heritage property foregrounds reconciliation as the bedrock of nation building.

This serial property demonstrates the events, ideas and belief systems that were at the core of the liberation struggle in South Africa and which, a quarter century afterwards, continues to inspire humanity to adopt reconciliation. The particular legacy of the struggle lies in the connections and interactions between human rights, liberation and reconciliation and the firm belief that human rights fundamentally and inherently belong to all. From the outset it was understood that the struggle was against a system that fostered and entrenched oppression on the basis of racial discrimination, rather than against a demographically delineated group. Firmly espoused by leaders throughout the struggle, this notion paved the way for reconciliation. Each of the fourteen component parts relate to the tenets of human rights, liberation and reconciliation that interactively propelled the South African liberation struggle to its universally celebrated conclusion.

Philosophies, such as non-racialism and Pan-Africanism persisted throughout the struggle, feeding into the vision that there should be a society based on human rights, where people are at peace with each other and in perpetual pursuit of equity and justice. The outlook of ubuntu implies that humanity is not embedded in an individual but is a quality that is bestowed upon one another. The philosophy of ubuntu was therefore taken as a guiding ideal for the transition from apartheid to the majority rule in South Africa. It ultimately led to reconciliation between opposing parties that provided a basis for the building of a new society. This is demonstrated by the adoption of ubuntu into the Epilogue of the Interim Constitution of South Africa (1993) that "there is a need for understanding but not for vengeance, a need for reparation but not retaliation, a need for ubuntu and not for victimisation".

The South African liberation struggle gave rise to exceptional African leaders, such as Nelson Mandela, an international symbol whose life is associated with the three tenets of human rights, liberation and reconciliation. This is illustrated by the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions, including the establishment of a global Nelson Mandela Day. The South African liberation struggle is recognised as an outstanding example of how the relationships between human rights, liberation and reconciliation interactively drove a globally supported struggle to its conclusion. The struggle is also a globally celebrated example of how the collective adherence to a common set of values and the resultant "coming together" of all its people turned a country away from the abyss, instead providing a framework within which a better life for all can be pursued.

Criterion (vi): The component parts of the serial property are places of memory that are directly and tangibly associated with events and ideas of outstanding universal significance. The South African struggle against apartheid was the longest sustained struggle in modern times and involved the global community. What characterised the struggle most strongly, and what sets it apart from others, are the ideals that underpinned its activities – human rights, liberation and reconciliation, the principles of ubuntu – and how these came to be so strongly espoused through the leadership and influence of Nelson Mandela. The fourteen component parts directly and tangibly reflect the struggle and its underlying ideals and commemorate and anchor collective memories that bear powerful testimony to human rights based on the shared values of dignity, fairness, equality, respect and independence.

Integrity

Although some remain in their original state and others have been renovated, the fourteen component parts demonstrate integrity in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value. Each component part contributes to different aspects of the history of the struggle for liberation, while also demonstrating the three key themes of human rights, liberation and reconciliation. All of the component parts are protected. Issues with the state of conservation and security for several of the component parts including the Shapeville Policy Station (003), Walter Sisulu Square (002), Z.K. Matthews House (012) and the Great Place at Mqhiekezweni (014) should be addressed.

Authenticity

As places of memory associated with recent conflicts, the authenticity of each of the fourteen component parts has been established in terms of their extensive historical documentation and memorialisation. Together, these sites represent key events and ideas that span eight decades of the South African liberation struggle. These sites provide powerful expressions of the values, courage and persistence that led to a globally recognised triumph against adversity, illustrating the spectrum of the processes of liberation and achievement of freedom through the attainment of human rights and reconciliation in South Africa. The authenticity of some component parts is vulnerable due to deterioration, vandalism and security concerns, and such issues should be addressed.

Protection and management requirements

All fourteen component parts are protected as national heritage sites under the National Heritage Resources Act, No. 25 (NHRA, 1999), supported by a framework of laws, regulations and planning instruments relating to heritage, conservation, and environmental protection. The World Heritage Convention Act, No. 49 (1999) enables South Africa to meet its obligations under the World Heritage Convention. This law establishes the South African World Heritage Convention Committee (SAWHCC), requires management authorities to be established for each World Heritage property, and requires the development of Integrated Management Plans.

Each component part has its own management authority that reports to an overarching World Heritage Management Authority. There is an overarching Integrated Conservation Management Plan as well as management plans for each component part. These should be further developed to specify the required approaches to conservation and provide more detail about planned conservation and monitoring actions. All proposals for development or change require a permit from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). Provisions for Heritage Impact Assessment will be applied to all new proposals for development and/or memorialisation in the component parts, buffer zones and wider settings.

Buffer zones have been established for all but one of the component parts, and consultative processes to consider mechanisms for strengthening the protection and management of buffer zones (including Heritage Areas) should be continued. Some aspects of the management system require additional development, such as the risk preparedness strategy, and improved indicators for monitoring of the state of conservation of the component parts so that trends can be discerned and addressed through the management system.

Interpretation is in place at some of the component parts. An overarching strategy and plan are needed for interpretation that incorporate a continuing dialogue and divergent perspectives, and provide actions for education, sustainable tourism and visitor management. The interpretation strategy should provide common standards and

presentation of the sites as a coherent whole, giving consideration to the different carrying capacities of each of the component parts. The continued development and implementation of the Stakeholder Involvement Strategy and Action Plan are essential for respecting and maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property.

Property	Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago
State Party	Viet Nam
ID No.	672 ter
Date of inscription	1994, 2000, 2023

Brief synthesis

Covering an area of 65,650 ha and including 1,133 islands and islets, Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago is located in the northeast of Viet Nam, within Quang Ninh province and Hai Phong city. Comprised of a multitude of vegetated limestone islands and towering limestone pillars of various sizes and shapes, rising from the sea, the property is a spectacular seascape sculpted by nature. Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago is the most extensive and best-known example of marine-invaded tower karst globally, and one of the world's most important areas of fengcong (clusters of conical peaks) and fenglin (isolated tower features) karst. The property's exceptional scenic beauty is complemented by its great biological interest.

Criterion (vii): Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago is a spectacular coastal landscape, and an outstanding example of fengcong and fenglin karst formed in humid tropical conditions. The limestone karst terrain has been invaded by the sea, to create a multitude of majestic limestone towers and features of shore erosion, including notches and caves. Cat Ba Archipelago provides spectacular views of the vegetated islands, marine lakes and limestone towers, with sheer cliffs plunging into the sea. It also includes the largest island in the region, with an inaccessible wilderness interior, marked by steep and rocky forested peaks, hosting important ecosystems that are the home to threatened species.

Criterion (viii): Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago is the most extensive example of marine-invaded tower karst globally, and one of the world's most important areas of fengcong (clusters of conical peaks) and fenglin (isolated tower features) karst. Abundant lakes, occupying drowned dolines, are one of the distinctive features of the fengcong karst, with some appearing to be tidal. Possessing a tremendous diversity of caves and other landforms derived from the unusual geomorphological process of marine invaded tower karst, the caves are of three main types: remnants of phreatic caves, old karstic foot caves, and marine notch caves. The property also displays the full range of karst formation processes on a very large scale and over a very long period of geological time. This provides a unique and extensive reservoir of data for the future understanding of geoclimatic history and the nature of karst processes in a complex environment. With the addition of Cat Ba Archipelago, the property comprises all the stages of the process of sea-inundation of tropical karst as well as three main types of caves (ancient marine notch caves, old karstic foot caves and notch caves).

Integrity

The major elements necessary to sufficiently protect the outstanding scenic and geological values of the Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago property are included within the boundaries. The size and area of the property provides sufficient integrity for the large-scale geomorphological processes to operate unhindered. Most of the property is surrounded by a large and extensive buffer zone, which adequately buffers the above attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value.

Located within an area of high tourism, marine transport, fisheries and the daily activities of people living and conducting their business, management of the area, instituted since inscription of the property, strictly regulates and controls activities in an attempt to minimize impacts on integrity. There is a continuing challenge to improve the integrity and quality of the environment. The natural scenic features and key geomorphology features such as islands, caves and grottoes remain intact and the property retains, overall, a high level of naturalness despite the long history of human use in the area.

The property also hosts a diversity of endemic flora and fauna such as the Livistona halongensis palm and Cat Ba Tiger Gecko as well as threatened species such as the Keeled Box Turtle, the Asian Small-clawed Otter, the Mainland Serow and the King Cobra. The property also maintains a small population of Cat Ba Langur, a Critically Endangered endemic primate and flagship species of the archipelago, although they continue to be affected by disturbance from tourism, restricted gene flow due to few individuals, and fragmented subpopulations.

Protection and management requirements

Internationally, Ha Long Bay was first recognized as a World Heritage site in 1994 and 2000. The Cat Ba Archipelago was recognized as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2004 and was added to the property through a significant boundary modification in 2023. Nationally, Ha Long Bay was first designated as a National Scenic Site in 1962 and elevated to a Special National Monument in 2009. The Cat Ba Archipelago was designated as a National Park in 1986, a Marine Protected Area in 2010, and most recently as a Special National Monument in 2013 and will be included in the Cat Ba – Long Chau Marine Protected Area, which was being established at the time of the extension of the property. Accordingly, Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago is effectively protected through various national laws

and decrees, including those on cultural heritage, biodiversity, forestry, environmental protection, fisheries and inland navigation. To further ensure effective national protection, the boundaries of Cat Ba National Park should be aligned with the boundaries of the Cat Ba Archipelago World Heritage property. The current legal framework at the time of inscription ensures that all activities which may affect the World Heritage values must be approved by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and other relevant agencies.

Ha Long Bay is directly protected and managed by the Ha Long Bay Management Board. At the same time, the Cat Ba Archipelago is protected and managed by Cat Ba National Park, and Management Board of Cat Ba Bays. The distinct roles of these individual units in managing and protecting the property, is set out in the relevant provisions of Vietnamese and international law. In addition, systematic coordination between the management boards of the two sites is in place. An essential element of the successful management of the property is to assure the harmonious joint efforts of Quang Ninh Province and Hai Phong City, and the relevant authorities.

Socio-economic activities on Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago are well regulated, carefully observed and effectively managed. Management and preservation are further strengthened through the regulations, master plans and action plans of Quang Ninh province and Hai Phong city, such as regulations on the management of cruise ships and discharge of waste, as well as participation, education and awareness raising for local communities on heritage preservation. The management of the property is guided by a number of specific plans for environmental protection, tourism development and management, and conservation planning. These include the Master Plan for Conservation, Management and Promotion of Ha Long Bay World Natural Heritage, the Cat Ba Archipelago Biosphere Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan, and Master Plan for Conservation, Management and Promotion of Cat Ba National Park. In view of the globally significant biodiversity conservation values present within the property, Cat Ba Langur conservation projects are a national priority and attract attention from international organizations.

Long-term priorities for heritage management include action on ensuring the integrity of the natural landscape, geological, geomorphological and environmental values of the property, and associated biodiversity. There is a continued need for institutionalisation of the coordinated management and governance arrangements; closely supervising development of economic activities; and conducting further research to clarify the values of the property. Furthermore, there is a need to enhance heritage management competencies and to maintain and update the monitoring plan and management indicators in order to manage the property effectively and efficiently. Development projects within and beyond the boundaries of the property require attention, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and heritage impact assessments will be required for any relevant projects in the buffer zone and adjacent to the buffer zone. There is a continued need to ensure adequate staff and financial resources for these tasks.

Involving local communities fully and equitably in the management and protection of the property is essential, with attention needed to implement fully the requirements of the Operational Guidelines, and best practice international guidelines. It is essential to continue appropriate consultations with the local communities, particularly those who might be relocated from the core area.

Increasing visitor numbers and the impacts of associated tourism development continue to be a management challenge. There is a need to ensure that development projects and tourism levels do not exceed the ecological carrying capacity of the entire property and are compatible with maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value in the long term. The quality and attention to public safety of access infrastructure such as pathways, steps and boardwalks is of a high standard, and, with steadily increasing visitor numbers, maintaining the quality of visitor management is essential.