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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

Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the of World Heritage List

Summary

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/47COM/documents

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

<u>Decision required</u>: The World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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

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NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

1. Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Australia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

3. Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

4. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

<u>Previous Committee Decisions</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

April 2006: UNESCO/IUCN joint Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (major hydropower development on all main rivers and related infrastructure)
- Mining (within and near the property (issue resolved), ecological restoration of post-mining sites)
- Management systems/management plan (absence of overall serial property-wide management system and plan including tourism planning; unclear property boundaries and absence of demarcation)
- Major visitor accommodation and associate infrastructure (tourism infrastructure conflicting with conservation objectives)
- Commercial hunting (apparent decline in wildlife populations suspected to be a result of trade in wildlife and wildlife derivatives) (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/

Current conservation issues

On 25 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/documents/ and reports the following:

- Post-mining ecological restoration activities continue, including natural afforestation in highaltitude areas, and conducting surveys, developing restoration plans, and mobilizing forest tending teams in lower-altitude areas, showing some positive results;
- With funding allocated by the Yunnan Forestry and Grassland Administration, the draft outline for
 the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA annexed to the report), as well as an associated
 technical roadmap and workplan, have been prepared, taking into account the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*. A technical team has been identified
 to complete the SEA, and a number of experts from several implicated sectors, including heritage,
 have been invited to participate;
- The Dulong River power transmission line, which started trial operations in May 2022, is important for meeting basic livelihood needs of the Dulong ethnic people and contribute to poverty alleviation in the rural Dulongjiang Township. Mitigation measures were implemented in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), during the construction, clean-up, and present operation phase to minimize environmental disturbances. Strict control and monitoring by Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve management authorities took place throughout the construction to ensure compliance with the project design and relevant regulations. A Project Post-evaluation Report (PPR annexed to the report) was prepared by domestic heritage experts to assess the impacts of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including the integrity and management, and on social and livelihood dynamics. The assessment concluded that no notable negative impact on the OUV was observed with positive impact on the community's livelihood, and that affected vegetation has recovered and sensitive species have adapted to the existence of the facilities. Further implementation of mitigation measures, as well as strict monitoring and conservation management, will continue as per the EIA and PPR recommendations;
- The two other power transmission projects crossing the property and its buffer zones in Deqin County (the Sancha River first-level and second-level power transmission line project, and the 110 kV Power Transmission and Transformation Construction Project) were completed in 2018 and 2020, respectively, and cleared the relevant regulatory and environmental requirements as prescribed in their EIAs;
- The draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP), annexed to the report, was completed in November 2023 based on extensive research and input from stakeholders, heritage experts, and government departments. The CMP will be updated based on the consolidation of the various categories and types of protected areas comprising the World Heritage property under the new protected natural areas system in China, currently being established;
- A preliminary version of the Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA) system was circulated with management authorities in 2023 for feedback. The next iteration will also incorporate information from the *Enhancing Our Heritage (EOH) Toolkit 2.0*, and reflect changes in the evolution of the various categories and designations of the component parts of the property.

On 20 March and 11 May 2025, the Forestry and Grassland Administration of Yunnan Province wrote to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, reiterating its willingness and commitment to invite the IUCN Advisory mission, which remains in planning at the time of drafting.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The preliminary results showing positive ecological recovery in post-mining sites within the property and its buffer zones are noted, and the State Party should be requested to ensure that conditions for natural restoration as well as the active restoration efforts continue.

The progress towards developing the SEA for the property, namely the draft outline and roadmap, demonstrates important initial steps. The scope and complexity of the SEA reflect the considerable challenge of ensuring conservation objectives and the socioeconomic needs of the local population. The State Party stresses that providing electricity to the approximately 90,000 residents within the property and its buffer zones is a basic necessity for their quality of life. The SEA draft outline is comprehensive

and reflects the main development pressures on the property (hydropower projects, power transmission facilities, and mining), and the need to assess potential impacts on all four natural criteria under which the property is inscribed. It should, however, also incorporate a specific assessment of indirect and cumulative impacts of such developments on the property as a whole, as well as take into consideration future climate scenarios and the potential for these projects to compound the negative impacts of climate change on the OUV. In this regard, it is positive that the planning of the IUCN Advisory mission is underway, noting again that this mission will provide the opportunity for further technical advice in response to the State Party's renewed request for IUCN inputs on the SEA and the draft CMP for the property.

It is noted that the State Party's completion of the draft CMP, which is being reviewed by IUCN, seeks to strengthen the coordination and integration of the various component parts of the property in a manner that emphasizes protection of the OUV, and that the draft CMP takes into account the ongoing 'integration and optimization of protected natural areas' at the national level.

Recalling the State Party's letter dated 26 February 2025 concerning the national reform of protected areas, which states "the total area of various natural protected areas within [...] World Heritage sites has increased by approximately 170,000 hectares compared to the area pledged during the application", the State Party should be requested to provide further clarification whether the national reform has resulted in any changes to the boundaries and protection status of the property and its buffer zones.

Regarding the Dulong River power transmission line project, which crosses the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve in the property, it is regrettable that the State Party did not provide information on its exploration and assessment of alternative options and locations. The minimal negative impact to the OUV of the property as determined by the PPR is noted, and the State Party should continue to implement all mitigation measures identified in the project's EIA and the PPR to ensure the full recovery of any affected areas and species.

It is regrettable that the two other power transmission projects in Deqin County, crossing the property and its buffer zones, noted in Decision **45 COM 7B.81**, were constructed without EIAs having been shared with the World Heritage Centre and appear to be in operation. It is unclear whether any impacts to the OUV were identified and what mitigation and monitoring measures were implemented. It is therefore recommended that the State Party be requested to provide this information and to recall that potential impacts of any development within the property, its buffer zones and in its wider setting that may impact on the OUV of the property should be assessed in line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, prior to any decision to proceed. The State Party is further requested to ensure these developments are included in the cumulative impact assessment through the SEA.

It is further noted that the preliminary version of the Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA) system will integrate feedback from management authorities, guidance from the EOH Toolkit 2.0, and will reflect eventual changes in the protected area designations of the various component parts in the property. The specific scope and objectives of the MEA, and how it will connect with other planning instruments, should be clearly defined with input from relevant stakeholders.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.4

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **37 COM 7B.12**, **43 COM 7B.5**, **44 COM 7B.182** and **45 COM 7B.81** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Notes</u> the preliminary results showing positive ecological recovery in post-mining sites within the property and its buffer zones, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to ensure that conditions for natural restoration, as well as active restoration efforts, continue;

- 4. Also notes the progress made towards developing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property, which recognizes the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property whilst promoting sustainable development objectives for local communities, <u>urges again</u> the State Party to complete the SEA, ensure that it includes an assessment of indirect and cumulative impacts of such developments on the property as a whole, as well as taking into consideration future climate scenarios and the potential for these projects to compound the negative impacts of climate change to the property's OUV;
- 5. Regrets that the State Party did not provide information on the exploration and assessment of alternative options and locations of the Dulong River power transmission line project, which crosses the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve in the property, and also requests the State Party to continue implementation of all mitigation measures identified in the project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Project Postevaluation Report (PPR) to ensure the full recovery of any affected areas and species;
- 6. <u>Also regrets</u> that the two other power transmission projects in Deqin County crossing the property and its buffer zones, for which concerns were expressed in Decision **45 COM 7B.81**, were constructed without their EIAs having been shared with the World Heritage Centre, and further requests the State Party to:
 - a) Report on the mitigation and monitoring measures that were implemented to avoid any negative impacts on the OUV of the property,
 - b) Ensure that these developments are included in the cumulative impact assessment through the SEA,
 - c) Ensure that any development projects proposed within the property, its buffer zones and in its wider setting are appropriately assessed for their potential impact on the OUV of the property in line with the Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision to proceed;
- 7. <u>Considers</u> that the draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) in its implementation across all component parts of the property will serve to strengthen coordination and protection of the OUV of the property and <u>takes note</u> that the IUCN Advisory mission encouraged since Decision **44 COM 7B.182** will provide an opportunity to discuss this matter;
- 8. <u>Also recalling</u> the national reform of protected areas reported by the State Party, <u>requests furthermore</u> the State Party to provide clarification whether the national reform has resulted in any changes to the boundaries and protection status of the property and its buffer zones;
- 9. <u>Further notes</u> that a preliminary version of the Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA) system has been developed and will be updated based on feedback from management authorities and guidance from the Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0, and will reflect eventual changes in the protected area designations of the various component parts in the property, and <u>requests moreover</u> the State Party to ensure that the scope and objectives of the MEA, and how it will connect with other planning instruments, is clearly defined in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;
- 10. <u>Also takes note</u> that the IUCN Advisory mission to discuss the many concurrent strategic and planning initiatives currently related to the property, including the SEA, CMP, MEA, national protected areas system reform, and impacts from recently completed power transmission projects in the property, is in planning;

11. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

5. Keoladeo National Park (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 80,000 ("Enhancing Our Heritage" project on the assessment of management effectiveness). Between 2007 and 2015, the property has benefited from the World Heritage India programme, funded by the United Nations Foundation (which aims to enhance management effectiveness and build staff capacity, increase the involvement of local communities in the management of the property, promote sustainable development, and raise awareness through communications and advocacy)

Previous monitoring missions

March 2005: World Heritage Centre site visit; March 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2023: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Invasive/alien terrestrial species (Prosopis, Paspalum)
- Invasive/alien freshwater species (Eichhornia, Clarias gariepinus)
- Water (extraction)
- Water infrastructure
- Management system/management plan (Need to update the Management Plan; inadequate water management including insufficient water supply and quality and competition among different users; inadequate measures to systematically monitor bird populations)
- Solid waste (Disposal of cattle carcasses near the property) (issue resolved)
- Other climate change impacts (High natural variability of rainfall)
- Other factor: Disappearance of Siberian cranes

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents and reports the following:

• In 2024, the property received 57 mcft of water from the Gambhir River and Azan Bandh, which is considered adequate to meet the 550 mcft water capacity required for the national park and to ensure the necessary ecological functioning of the property;

- Budget continues to be allocated for the removal of invasive species as part of the long-term commitment towards invasive species eradication (*Prosopis juliflora*, water hyacinth, *Ipomea*) and habitat restoration:
- The 2023 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations are being implemented as follows:
 - Regarding the request to develop a clear list of attributes for the property, it is stated that attributes are already mentioned in the 2017-2027 Management Plan,
 - Regarding securing a long-term strategic solution to water supply for the property, it is reiterated that the 550 mcft water requirement is based on a long-term survey by the Bombay Natural History Society, however the management has requested a new study to evaluate any changes in water requirements. Water quality assessments are undertaken periodically and will be further enhanced to ensure proper water quality is maintained. Adequate water has been released to the property, and hydrological processes are clearly mentioned in the Management Plan. No water is taken from sewage treatment plants, with no plans to do so in the future,
 - The fact that the Siberian crane last visited the property in 2001-2002 is clearly incorporated in all management documents.
 - Monitoring is undertaken as required under the Wildlife Protection Act,1972, strictly follows
 the Management Plan, and incorporates scientifically based principles. Monitoring of water
 quality, waterfowl census, and GIS mapping of invasive species, has helped to better
 monitor the ecological health and inform annual plans of the property,
 - A long-term management strategy for invasive species is already incorporated into the Management Plan and being strictly followed,
 - Implementation of the current Management Plan already takes into consideration and keeps a focus on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
 - An ex-situ management programme under consideration at the time of the mission has been reviewed. To date, no such project has been planned in the park. The resources are being utilised to support management priorities for the property;
- A Zonal Master Plan for the Eco-Sensitive Zone around the property has been prepared.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Recalling that the 2023 mission highlighted that the overriding issue for the property remains to secure sufficient water supply to sustain its OUV, and that water supply in most years had remained below the minimum level considered necessary to ensure the ecological functioning of the property (550 mcft), it is positive that the minimum level was met in 2024 through the provision of water from the Gambhir River and Azan Bandh. Recalling also that the mission recommended that this minimum water level (identified in the 1980s) should be reviewed to ensure it is still appropriate given the current understanding of wetland hydrology and management priorities, it is recommended that the study to evaluate any necessary changes be finalised to inform decision making that secures a long-term strategic solution to water supply. It is positive that water quality assessments are undertaken periodically, that adequate water quality is reported to be maintained, and that no water from sewage treatment plants is being considered to supply the property. Whilst noting that hydrological processes are reported to be clear in the Management Plan, it is important to highlight that the mission reviewed the Management Plan and considered a pressing need to understand the present hydrological status of the property. It is therefore recommended that the State Party provide a more comprehensive response including whether it has been clarified that the minimum water requirements for the property remain appropriate and agreed, given that the ecological baseline was established in the 1980s, in order to guide future management actions.

It is noted that the Siberian crane has not been observed in the property since 2001-2002 and that this is clearly reflected in management documents as requested by the Committee (Decision **45 COM 7B.82**). Whilst acknowledging that monitoring is reported to be in line with legislative requirements, the Management Plan, and incorporating scientific principles, it is however unclear whether the 2023 mission recommendation, which highlighted an overriding need for a monitoring programme that is scientifically sound and that can inform the management of the property so that the OUV is maintained and, where necessary, restored, has been adequately addressed or not. It is recommended that this

request be reiterated and that the State Party also provide a more comprehensive response on this point. Whilst noting that a long-term management strategy for invasive species is reported to already be incorporated into the Management Plan, it is recalled that the mission reviewed the Management Plan and specifically recommended establishing a long-term adaptive management strategy for invasive species that addresses five specific points, for which again no information is provided.

Noting that the State Party considers that the OUV is already addressed in the Management Plan and, overall, the Management Plan does not appear to have been revised since the last Decision, it is recommended to take the opportunity of the expiry of the Plan in 2027 to initiate a process to review it and address the remainder of the mission recommendations, including to identify where there are gaps in addressing challenges facing the OUV, and to initiate a timely planning process to deliver a new Management Plan that explicitly links actions to the attributes that convey the OUV. In this regard, it is essential to develop a clear list of the attributes as recommended by the mission, using technical guidance such as the *Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0*.

It is noted with appreciation that the proposed plans to establish *ex-situ* management have not proceeded. Since the Zonal Master Plan for the Eco-Sensitive Zone around the property has now been prepared, it is useful to again encourage the State Party to formalize this as a World Heritage buffer zone, by submitting a Minor Boundary Modification request as outlined in Paragraphs 107 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.5

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.82, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> that the minimum water level considered necessary to ensure the ecological functioning of the property (550 mcft) was met in 2024 through the provision of sufficient water from the Gambhir River and Azan Bandh, as well as the confirmation of periodic water quality assessments to ensure that adequate water quality is maintained, and that no water from sewage treatment plants is being considered to supply the property;
- 4. Also recalling its utmost concern that water supply in most years had remained below the minimum level considered necessary for the ecological functioning of the property, as highlighted by the 2023 mission, reiterates its request for the State Party to secure a long-term strategic solution to water supply for the property in line with the mission recommendations, including to:
 - a) Clarify water requirements for the property by reviewing the minimum water requirement to ensure this is still agreed given the current understanding of wetland hydrology, changes in the property over time, and the management objectives for restoring the property,
 - b) Ensure the continued monitoring and maintenance of adequate water quality for the property,
 - c) Ensure the continued release of sufficient water to meet minimum water requirements,
 - d) Clarify the hydrological processes related to the property as requested by the mission;
- 5. <u>Takes note</u> that it is clearly reflected in all management documents that the Siberian crane has not been observed in the property since 2001-2002;

- 6. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to use the anticipated expiration of the 2017-2027 Management Plan in 2027 to fully address the following mission recommendations and inform the timely development of a new Management Plan for the property:
 - a) Develop a clear list of the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to inform the long-term monitoring, protection and management of the property, using technical guidance such as Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0,
 - b) Establish a long-term adaptive management strategy for invasive species that specifically addresses Recommendation 5 of the 2023 mission report,
 - c) Ensure the new Management Plan includes an explicit focus on the OUV of the property,
 - d) Ensure management planning and decision-making is focused specifically on the OUV of the property, including that planned activities explicitly and transparently contribute to its protection and management;
- 7. <u>Notes</u> that monitoring for the property is reported to be in line with legislative requirements, the approved Management Plan, and incorporating scientific principles, <u>also requests</u> however the State Party to provide further details on the requested establishment of a scientifically-based monitoring programme based on the attributes that convey the OUV to inform management of the property;
- 8. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> that the proposed establishment of an ex-situ management programme for four species of mammal is no longer planned;
- 9. <u>Takes note</u> that the Zonal Master Plan for the Eco-Sensitive Zone around the property has been completed, and <u>again encourages</u> the State Party to consider formalizing the Eco-Sensitive Zone as a World Heritage buffer zone by submitting a Minor Boundary Modification request, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 10. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.
- 8. Western Tien-Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

9. Cold Winter Deserts of Turan (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1693/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1693/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- need to increase the connectivity between the component parts of the property and with the wider ecosystem;
- Legal framework (need to ensure the legal protection of each component part and each buffer zone is maintained in the long term);
- Financial resources (provide sufficient funding for the Joint Steering Committee);
- Management systems/ management plan (strengthen the transnational and transboundary management of the property)

<u>Illustrative material</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1693/

Current conservation issues

On 13 December 2024, the States Parties of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan submitted a joint state of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1693/documents/ and reports the following:

- Several initiatives are underway to strengthen ecological connectivity, facilitate species migration, and support the management of habitats for key species, both within national borders and through transboundary cooperation. For example, Kazakhstan has re-initiated the Kapshagai-Balkhash Eco-Corridor project to support the migration route of the Goitered Gazelle and to improve habitat connectivity in general between the Altyn-Emel component parts and the Ile-Balkhash Nature Reserve to the north-west (outside of the property). Work is underway to establish a new reserve as part of the Gaplangyr component part in Turkmenistan to enhance connectivity in the northern region of the country. A new cooperation programme between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan is underway to support the restoration of the saiga population, including poaching and trafficking prevention:
- 52 new wildlife passes were created in 2023-24, and others improved, to facilitate the transboundary migration of ungulates across the Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan borders monitored with camera traps. 11 kilometres of fencing along the Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan border have been removed to open pathways for saiga migration and enhance connectivity with other areas;
- In the framework of COP14 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in February 2024, the States Parties made new commitments for transboundary cooperation including the States Parties of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, later joined by Turkmenistan, signing a Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Conservation of the Wildlife of the Ustyurt Plateau, which is one of the most important and sensitive areas for connectivity in the property. Additionally, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan joined the multi-country

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia (Turkmenistan is not a signatory);

- The States Parties confirm that all component parts of the property and their buffer zones are protected according to respective national legislation and relevant international agreements, with sufficient funds allocated from the state budget. While some expansions of certain component parts may be envisaged in the future, as in the case of the Gaplangyr component part, there are no plans to change the composition or protection status of any of the property's component parts;
- The first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (or Regional Coordination Committee) was held virtually in October 2024. A regulation on the functioning of the Committee, as well as a Regional Framework Management Plan for the transboundary management of the property, will be developed in the near future. Allocation of funding for the Committee's work will be discussed once its structure and function is finalized; funding from international organizations is also being considered;
- Several workshops, seminars, study field visits, and capacity-building activities have been held at the local, national, and transboundary levels related to topics important to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including on management, connectivity, biodiversity, and migratory species.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

In the short period since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List in 2023, it is encouraging that the States Parties have implemented several important initiatives that support ecological connectivity between the component parts and in the broader region. The creation of 52 new wildlife passes, including the removal of 11 kilometres of fencing along the Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan border, at a key saiga migration corridor, is an important step towards restoring migration patterns across the wider territory. The welcomed additional commitments, such as the three States Parties signing a Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Conservation of the Wildlife of the Ustyurt Plateau, and Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan joining the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia, will need to be followed up with dedicated financial resources and action plans.

The assurance by the States Parties that the legal protection of all 14 component parts and their buffer zones is guaranteed by the relevant national legislation and international commitments, and that there are no plans to modify the extent or status of any component part, is noted. For the long-term protection of the OUV of the property, it will be important to ensure that the legal protection of all component parts and their buffer zones is maintained.

It is noted that an initial virtual meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (also referred to as the Regional Coordination Committee) to oversee the transboundary management of the property has been held. However, recalling the commitments made by the States Parties in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in January 2022 and the Supplementary Information provided in February 2023 as part of the World Heritage nomination process, it will be important that the structure, functioning and financing of the Joint Steering Committee are finalised to ensure it is fully operational. While it is encouraging that the States Parties reiterated their intention to develop regulations for the Joint Steering Committee and a Regional Framework Management Plan for the property, there is no timeline indicated, nor a dedicated budget allocated, for advancing this work. Given that the Joint Steering Committee will be the primary body responsible for ensuring a coordinated management approach among the 14 component parts, including on connectivity and transboundary migration issues, the States Parties should be urged to advance the functioning of the Committee as a matter of priority, as committed to during the nomination process.

Though not planned under the framework of the Joint Steering Committee, many workshops, seminars, study field visits, and capacity-building activities reported by the States Parties serve important conservation objectives, and opportunities for transboundary cooperation are regularly sought. It is encouraged that such initiatives continue to strengthen transnational conservation, management, monitoring and governance including through sharing of knowledge and experience with other transboundary/transnational properties. Applying a strategic and holistic approach through the forthcoming Regional Framework Management Plan or similar overarching planning instrument will allow for capacities and resources to be aligned with priority areas of attention and collaboration to support the OUV of the property in an integrated way.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.9

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 8B.29, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the various initiatives being implemented by the States Parties of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to strengthen connectivity and facilitate migration of key species that are part of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, particularly through creating new wildlife passes and removing border fencing to facilitate transboundary migration, and <u>requests</u> the States Parties to continue their collaboration in this regard;
- 4. <u>Strongly encourages</u> the States Parties to dedicate appropriate resources to ensure the implementation of new international commitments, particularly the trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Conservation of the Wildlife of the Ustyurt Plateau, and the Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia, to which Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are now signatories;
- 5. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the assurance by the States Parties that the legal protection of all 14 component parts and their buffer zones is guaranteed by the relevant national legislation and international commitments with sufficient funds allocated from the state budget, and that there are no plans to modify the extent or status of any component part of the property;
- 6. <u>Regrets</u> that the establishment of the Joint Steering Committee (or Regional Coordination Committee) for the transboundary management of the property remains to be fully operationalised, and that further progress is required towards the development of a clear and functioning transboundary management structure as committed to during the nomination process;
- 7. <u>Urges</u>, therefore, the States Parties to expedite the process of formalizing the Joint Steering Committee (or Regional Coordination Committee) as a matter of priority, including the finalization of the body's regulations and the Regional Framework Management Plan, as well as the allocation of adequate financial resources to support its work;
- 8. <u>Also welcomes</u> various capacity-building activities being undertaken by the States Parties to strengthen transnational conservation and management, and <u>encourages</u> the States Parties to continue such initiatives including through exchange with other transboundary/transnational properties;
- 9. <u>Finally requests</u> the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

12. Chitwan National Park (Nepal)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1988-1989) Total amount approved: USD 80,000

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2002: IUCN monitoring mission; March 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (Plans to construct a road and railway through the property; Proposed infrastructure projects)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species (Spread of invasive species; Encroachment of wildlife habitats in the buffer zone)
- Management systems/Management Plan (Lack of appropriate inter-agencies and interministries consultation and coordination for development proposals)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/

Current conservation issues

On 11 December 2023, the State Party submitted a letter in response to Decision **45 COM 7B.86**, which reports the following:

- Two maps with explanatory text reflecting the 2016 changes to the boundaries of Chitwan National Park (CNP) and its buffer zone are provided. Consultations with the UNESCO Kathmandu Office are underway to register the changes. CNP is planning to develop a management plan considering appropriate zonation, adequate measures to minimize impacts from the large number of pilgrims, and other challenges;
- Regarding human rights concerns raised in 2020, and by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples (Special Rapporteur) in 2022, the State Party asserts that by law it has a strong commitment to ecological safeguards of the natural heritage site and social safeguards of the local communities. The provisions include benefit sharing to allow community access, and 30-50% of park revenue is allocated to communities. Households previously living in the core area of CNP had been notified to leave since their settlements are considered illegal under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (NPWC), and local government had attempted to resettle them outside the property by constructing houses in 2020, to restore the area inside the park. The households were resettled however some did not leave and the authorities subsequently dismantled the houses in the property. There was no intention to abuse human rights and the local government supported communities by developing new settlement areas in collaboration with the buffer zone user committee. CNP is obligated to fundamental rights in line with the Constitution of Nepal.

On 3 December 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/284/documents/ and reports the following:

 Regular patrolling, monitoring and intergovernmental collaboration are implemented to prevent rhino poaching in the property and the CNP buffer zone. From July 2023 to July 2024, three poaching incidents occurred and 21 rhino deaths were recorded (2 or 3 from poaching, otherwise natural causes), with none linked to the previously raised construction activities;

- The East-West Electrified (EWE) Railroad alignment outside the property has not been finalised
 and the government is aware of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures. The
 Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) is sensitive to providing
 alternative options, and authorities are committed to suggesting best alternative routes to address
 potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to submit the EIA to UNESCO;
- The Committee's recognition that proposed road projects inside and adjacent to the property have been suspended is appreciated. The Supreme Court of Nepal has issued a verdict to stop any upgrade of the Thori-Madi-Bharatpur (TMB) road section inside the property (which has not progressed further)without consultation with UNESCO. A decision regarding the China-India Trade Link of Province 3 (now Bagmati Province) and Province 4 (now Gandaki Province), Madi-Balmiki road and Malekhu-Thori road, remains pending;
- All aforementioned roads pass through the buffer zone except the 8 km TMB section. The TMB, Hulaki Sadak and Madi-Balmiki roads have direct impacts on the property. Other projects such as the railway are in the CNP buffer zone and so are expected to have low direct impact on the OUV but may pose indirect impacts. DNPWC and CNP continue to oppose these roads and railway crossing the property;
- The Wildlife Friendly Infrastructure Directives, 2022 was approved to guide the construction of
 wildlife friendly linear infrastructure within the wildlife habitat and movement area, including
 prohibiting linear infrastructure in the very sensitive zone, and emphasising the need to construct
 wildlife friendly infrastructure. An EIA in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact
 Assessments in a World Heritage Context (Guidance and Toolkit) is required for any infrastructure
 inside the property and will be submitted to UNESCO;
- A boundary modification process has not progressed since it remains unclear whether the 2016 boundary changes would require a minor or significant boundary modification;
- There is no relocation of villages planned in the buffer zone of the national park and any potential future relocation would follow a human rights-based approach applying international best practices and applicable norms. Key points in the aforementioned December 2023 report are reiterated.

On 13 December 2024, the State Party of Nepal submitted an EIA for the addition of an underground section to the existing and currently operational Jagatpur-Madi 33 kV sub-transmission line inside the property. The EIA has been transmitted to IUCN for review.

On 8 April 2025, the World Heritage Centre transmitted third party information to the State Party regarding the translocation of rhinos by DNPWC from the western to the eastern sector of the property, requesting a response.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's response to the human rights concerns raised in 2020 and by the UN Special Rapporteur in 2022 is noted, including confirmation of its strong commitment to ensuring social safeguards for local communities under the NPWC, with provisions to access the property including traditional use of natural resources, and that 30-50% of park revenue is allocated to communities. Whilst acknowledging the State Party's position that communities were residing within the property illegally under the NPWC Act and that housing was provided outside the core area as part of their relocation, it remains essential that any potential relocation only be undertaken in line with international best practice standards, and that management operations follow a human rights-based approach. It is therefore concerning that the 2020 relocation is reported to have been undertaken without the free, prior and informed (FPIC) of the communities and therefore has not met these requirements, and the State Party should be requested to engage with the affected communities to address any grievances that remain, and provide appropriate redress, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN. It would also be of value to invite the Special Rapporteur to engage in this matter.

The continued implementation of anti-poaching measures is appreciated and should be continued to ensure the long-term protection of rhinos in the property and CNP buffer zone. Noting that most of the 21 rhino deaths were reported to be of natural causes, and no deaths linked to the construction, following

consultation also with the IUCN SSC (Species Survival Commission) Asian Rhino Specialist Group, it is recommended the State Party ascertain the underlying cause of these and previous rhino deaths (e.g. disease, habitat deterioration, Invasive plants) and identify any necessary management response measures. A response regarding the reported translocation of rhinos within the property should also be provided.

Noting that the new alignment to locate the EWE Railroad outside the property is not yet finalised, it is positive that the State Party is committed to finding an alternative resolution that does not impact the OUV, and to ensuring an EIA is completed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for submission to the World Heritage Centre. The EIA remains important given the close proximity of the railroad to the property.

The continued suspension of the proposed road projects inside and adjacent to the property, and the Supreme Court ruling to stop any upgrade of the TMB road section inside the property without consulting with UNESCO, is positive. Whilst a decision regarding the two China-India Trade Links, Madi-Balmiki road and Malekhu-Thori road, remains pending, given that the TMB, Hulaki Sadak and Madi-Balmiki roads are acknowledged to have direct impacts on the property, and that other projects in the CNP buffer zone would be expected to have low direct impacts, but may pose indirect impacts, the government's continued opposition to these crossing the property is positive, in line with the 2016 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation for a permanent ban on any new roads or the reopening/upgrading of old roads passing through the property. The submission of a supplementary EIA for the Jagatpur-Madi 33 kV sub-transmission line is noted and will be reviewed by IUCN.

Whilst noting that the Wildlife Friendly Infrastructure Directives aims to guide wildlife friendly infrastructure development, it is unclear what exactly this means in practice. Importantly, the commitment to undertake an EIA for such developments in line with the Guidance and Toolkit is positive.

The submission of maps showing the 2016 changes to the boundaries of CNP and its buffer zone is noted. However, any modification to the boundary of the World Heritage property or creation of World Heritage buffer zones need to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraphs 107 and 163 - 165 of the Operational Guidelines. Furthermore, it is not possible to examine proposals for modifications to World Heritage property boundaries where the delimitations of such properties as inscribed remain unclear, therefore, an up-to-date quality map of the property as inscribed in 1984 should be submitted as a priority. Noting also that the State Party requires further clarification on the boundary modification process required to formally reflect these changes under the Convention, and that a minor boundary modification was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 1 February 2024, which was considered to be incomplete, the State Party should again be encouraged to consult the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on this matter.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.12

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **44 COM 7B.188** and **45 COM 7B.86** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Also recalling</u> the concerns of alleged human rights abuses in relation to Chitwan National Park raised in 2020, including in the 2022 "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, José Francisco Calí Tzay. Protected areas and indigenous peoples' rights: the obligations of States and international organizations",
- 4. <u>Takes note</u> of the State Party's confirmation of its legal requirement to follow a humanrights based approach and of the social safeguards for local communities under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, with provisions for communities to access the property, including natural resources that have been traditionally used, and that 30-50% of park revenue is allocated to communities;

- 5. Notes with significant concern however that past relocation of people from the property has not been undertaken in line with international best practice, and requests the State Party to engage with the affected communities to ensure that any grievances that remain are appropriately documented and addressed, and provide appropriate redress, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and encourages the State Party to engage with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to engage in this matter;
- 6. <u>Continues to note with appreciation</u> the ongoing collaborative efforts to combat rhino poaching in the property, and <u>also requests</u> the State Party to continue anti-poaching measures:
- 7. <u>Also takes note</u> of the report that no rhino deaths were linked to the reported construction activities and the majority of deaths are due to natural causes, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to:
 - a) Ascertain and report to the World Heritage Committee on the underlying cause of rhino deaths in the property, and to identify any necessary management response measures, in consultation with IUCN including the IUCN Species Survival Commission Asian Rhino Specialist Group,
 - b) Provide information regarding the reported translocation of rhinos within the property, including the scientific and technical basis for such measures, and the monitoring framework to ensure effective implementation;
- 8. Notes that the new alignment to locate the East-West Electrified Railroad outside the property remains to be finalized and that the State Party commits to ensuring the completion and submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and also reiterates its request for the State Party to submit the EIA of the proposed alignment which adequately assesses the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, together with a detailed map, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN when it is available and before finalizing a decision on the alternative route;
- 9. <u>Welcomes again</u> the continued suspension of the proposed road projects inside and adjacent to the property, including the Supreme Court ruling to stop any upgrading of the section of the Thori-Madi-Bharatpur road located inside the property without prior consultation with UNESCO, and <u>also notes</u> that a decision regarding the China-India Trade Link of Province 3 (now Bagmati Province) and Province 4 (now Gandaki Province), Madi-Balmiki road and Malekhu-Thori road remains pending;
- 10. Notes with appreciation the continued opposition to any road and railway developments passing through the property, and continues to reiterate its request to the State Party not to approve any road and railway developments passing through the property, as recommended by the 2016 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, which would represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 11. <u>Further notes</u> that the 2022 Wildlife Friendly Infrastructure Directive is intended to guide infrastructure development and ensure this is "wildlife friendly", and <u>also requests</u> the State Party to provide further clarification on what this means in practice, and <u>further reiterates its request</u> to ensure that their potential impacts on the OUV are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

- 12. <u>Reiterates its request furthermore</u> to the State Party to submit up-to-date maps of the property as inscribed in 1984 to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the World Heritage Centre in its letter of October 2020;
- 13. <u>Acknowledges</u> the submission of maps that reflect the changes made to the boundaries of Chitwan National Park and its buffer zone at the national level in 2016, and <u>urges again</u> the State Party to submit a boundary modification request in accordance with paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, and <u>encourages again</u> the State Party to seek further guidance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN regarding the boundary modification process;
- 14. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

13. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

14. Dong Phayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (Thailand)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

15. Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

16. Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago (Viet Nam)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

17. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2005-2021) Total amount approved: USD 104,040

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 33,000 from UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to support Stakeholder's Consultation for the transboundary cooperation with Lao PDR (2006)

Previous monitoring missions

July 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (Negative impacts of a road construction project in the World Heritage site) (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities (Illegal logging and forest crimes (poaching)
- Management systems/management plan (Lack of a visitor Management Plan, Inadequate Sustainable Tourism Development Plan)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (Cable car project to provide access to the Son Doong cave)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/

Current conservation issues

On 4 December 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/documents, which reports the following:

- In 2024, the Quang Binh Provincial People's Committee (Quang Binh PPC) issued an action plan that includes implementation of the "Eradication of *Merremia boisiana* species in Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park (PNKB NP), Quang Binh province" project. Funding for its implementation is under consideration. Measures to eradicate the species include reforestation, restoration and monitoring of its encroachment. The 2019 pilot eradication project (summary appended) was considered a success; however, its methodology cannot be replicated due to the national ban on the use of glyphosate in pesticides. Control measures will continue and will be included in the 2025-2030 Management Plan (MP) for the property;
- Quang Binh PPC's reports, plans and directives related to tourism development include a review of the Master Plan for the construction of PNKB NP to 2030 to "preserve and develop PNKB NP comprehensively"; the implementation of a Prime Ministerial directive for "comprehensive, rapid and sustainable tourism development"; and a project on "eco-tourism, resort and entertainment" for 2021-2030 to "promote and call for investment in developing tourism in a scientific and sustainable manner"; with the intention for PNKB NP to become an adventure tourism centre in Asia by 2030. An assessment of tourism carrying capacity for some caves in PNKB NP is planned in 2025. The Sustainable Tourism Development Plan continues to be implemented;
- Forest carbon initiatives (REDD+; Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA)) have increased funding for forest protection and contribute to income generation for local communities. Conservation activities support livelihoods in the buffer zone, and forest management activities continue with improved capacity of the Management Board of PNKB NP;

- A new 2025-2030 MP for the property is being developed, with interagency consultations expected to be completed in 2025. A Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-4) assessment has been completed (appended). There is a focus on strengthening research and updating management documents;
- Transboundary cooperation with the State Party of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) regarding the conservation of PNKB NP in Viet Nam and Hin Nam No National Park in Lao PDR, is ongoing at the national and site levels. A new ranger station was established adjacent to Hin Nam No National Park to ensure management of the border area. A significant boundary modification (SBM) to extend the property and include Hin Nam No National Park was submitted in January 2024;
- Plans to manage livestock and grazing activities within the PNKB NP forest and adjacent areas and to monitor, manage and minimise impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) have been issued, and a multi-stakeholder forum and consultative council for the property are being established:
- In May 2023, Quang Binh PPC approved a buffer zone dossier with the goal of determining the boundary scope, location, and area of a buffer zone in PNKB NP, and which determined a 55.5 hectare buffer zone in Doong village.

In March 2025, IUCN was informed through its sources of the potential reconsideration of developing cable car infrastructure inside the property. On 28 May 2025, the World Heritage Centre transmitted a letter to the State Party to verify the third-party information on the cable car development.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Regarding invasive species, it is noted that the 2019 pilot study for the eradication of *M. boisiana* was considered successful but its methodology cannot be replicated due to the national ban on glyphosate in pesticides; that funding is being sourced for the new eradication project; and that control measures will be incorporated into the new 2025-2030 MP for the property. Noting that no general update on invasive species has been provided, as requested by the Committee (Decision **44 COM 7B.189**), it is recommended that the new MP include a clear strategy to address invasive species in the property, that alternative methods be identified which avoid the use of banned chemicals, and that long-term measures to address invasive species be sufficiently resourced.

The State Party's commitment to developing sustainable tourism, and the related Quang Binh PPC led activities, are noted positively. However, recognizing the government's intention to develop tourism linked to the property and position PNKB NP as an "adventure tourism centre" by 2030, it remains important that a clear strategic tourism planning approach is in place. Specifically, it is important that the requested carrying capacity study to assess sustainable tourism limits for the property, along with the update of the 2010-2020 Sustainable Tourism Development Plan, are completed, to inform a clear strategic approach to sustainable tourism planning and development in relation to the property, before individual projects are approved. It is also recommended that the State Party provide an overview of tourism developments that are planned or approved within the property and its wider setting and ensure that the potential impacts of any proposed infrastructure on the property's OUV are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. In this regard, the thirdparty report of a renewed potential construction of cable cars into the property is concerning, recalling that since 2015, the Committee has raised concerns over such a project and welcomed the State Party's confirmation that cable car projects are no longer planned (Decisions 43 COM 7B.12 and 44 COM 7B.189). It is recommended that a response be requested, recalling the State Party's commitment that no infrastructure projects will be approved in or near the caves within the property to avoid impacting the OUV (Decision 45 COM 7B.90).

The various management related actions such as strengthening forest management including through forest carbon initiatives, assessing management effectiveness, strengthening management coordination, and supporting local livelihoods in the buffer zone, are noted with appreciation and should be continued. Given the expiry of the existing MP in 2025, it is positive that a new 2025-2030 MP is under development. It is recommended the MP be finalised in consultation with stakeholders and rightsholders, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre once completed.

The continued transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of Viet Nam and Lao PDR on the conservation of the PNKB NP and the bordering Hin Nam No National Park, is welcomed and should continue to be encouraged.

Recalling previous concerns regarding cattle grazing in Doong village, a strictly protected part of the property, it is appreciated that various actions are being implemented to monitor and manage this, and minimize impacts on the OUV, whilst supporting local livelihoods. However, noting the report that part of Doong village was identified as a 'buffer zone' in 2023, it is recalled that any modifications to or creation of World Heritage buffer zones should be approved by the World Heritage Committee using the procedure for a minor boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraphs 107 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, and the State Party should be requested to provide further clarification on this matter and to ensure that grazing activities continue to be monitored to prevent negative impacts on the property's OUV, noting that its location is in a strictly protected part of the property.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.17

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **43 COM 7B.12**, **44 COM 7B.189** and **45 COM 7B.90**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Takes note</u> of the 2019 pilot study for the eradication of the invasive plant species Merremia boisiana, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to secure funding for, and implement, the new M. boisiana eradication project, and to include in the 2025-2030 Management Plan for the property a clear strategy for the control of invasive alien species in the property using measures that avoid the use of banned chemicals;
- 4. Reiterates its request to develop a clear strategy and action plan that is sufficiently resourced to address the threat posed by the 14 previously reported invasive species identified within the property, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
- 5. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the State Party's commitment to ensuring sustainable tourism in relation to the property and, in view of the planned expansion of tourism towards 2030, <u>also requests</u> the State Party to ensure that a strategic sustainable tourism planning and development framework is in place to safeguard the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including by finalising the following previous requests:
 - a) An assessment of the tourism carrying capacity for the property,
 - b) An update of the 2010-2020 Sustainable Tourism Development Plan and its integration with other key management plans and tools, including the 2025-2030 Management Plan for the property, to enhance governance based on the overarching principles of sustaining and preserving the OUV of the property by paying careful attention to the balance between tourism development and biodiversity conservation, as well as increased benefit sharing among stakeholders:
- 6. <u>Also recalling</u> the State Party's confirmation that no infrastructure projects will be approved in or near the caves within the property to avoid impacting the OUV, <u>further requests</u> the State Party to provide clarification regarding third party concerns that the potential development of cable cars into the property is being reconsidered;
- 7. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the strengthening of forest management and management coordination, assessing management effectiveness, and supporting local livelihoods in the buffer zone, and requests furthermore the State Party to continue such measures,

and to finalise the development of the 2025-2030 Management Plan for the property in consultation with stakeholders and rightsholders, for submission to the World Heritage Centre once completed, and to use this update to also complete the requested integration and harmonisation of various management and conservation plans and tools under a concerted vision of governance;

- 8. <u>Welcomes</u> the continued cooperation with the State Party of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) for the conservation of biodiversity in the transboundary protected area, and the submission of a significant boundary modification to extend the property to include Hin Nam No National Park (Lao PDR), and <u>encourages</u> the States Parties to continue transboundary cooperation;
- 9. Also notes with appreciation the various actions being implemented to monitor, manage and minimise the impact of livestock grazing on the OUV of the property, however, recalling that any modifications to or creation of World Heritage buffer zones should be approved by the World Heritage Committee in accordance with Paragraph 107 of the Operational Guidelines, requests the State Party to provide clarification on the report that an area within a strictly protected part of the property used for grazing has been identified as a buffer zone, and to ensure that grazing activities continue to be monitored to prevent negative impacts on the property's OUV;
- 10. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

18.	Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia,
	Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

19.	Białowieża	Forest	(Belarus,	Poland)
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See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

20. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

21. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

22. Wadden Sea (Denmark, Germany, Kingdom of the Netherlands)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

23. Gulf of Porto: Calanche of Piana, Gulf of Girolata, Scandola Reserve (France)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (vii)(viii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/258/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/258/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Non-renewable energy facilities
- Oil and gas
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Management system/plan

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/258/

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, in response to Decision **45 COM 7B.92** of the World Heritage Committee, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/258/documents/:reporting the following:

- A comprehensive study of pleasure boating in Corsica, which will provide updated information compared with the results of the two previous studies (2013 and 2019), is currently being analysed (results expected in the first half of 2025);
- The number of visitors using tour boats to visit the property rose from 150,000 to 159,000, an increase of 6% between 2011 and 2023. In the Scandola reserve, the number of boats has fallen from an average of 56 in the summer of 2020 to 17 in the summer of 2023, mainly for economic reasons:
- Posidonia seagrass meadows cover an area of 1,034.3 ha (+ 6.61 ha of dead matte) within the
 perimeter of the property (around 30%) and coralligenous reefs cover a cumulative area of
 coralligenous reefs cover a cumulative area of 39.3 ha, located on deep seabeds, which are
 hardly affected by boat anchoring;
- The damage to pavements by lithophyllum reported in the 1990s has ceased for at least a dozen
 years due to the presence of management teams;
- With a population of between 14 and 18 pairs (from 2020 to 2023), the reproductive success of the osprey in the property remains low. In addition to over-tourism, other factors likely to affect the Osprey's reproductive success have been identified. A national action plan, with regional variations for Corsica, is currently being finalised;
- The development of the 2025-2034 Management Plan for the property, including the sustainable tourism strategy, is well advanced and a consolidated version will be sent to IUCN for its opinion before finalisation. A work plan is attached to this report;
- Aspects relating to climate change are incorporated into the draft Management Plan currently being drawn up, across all actions, from risk management and land-use planning to biodiversity

monitoring and management. Several projects are ongoing to improve knowledge and strengthen the resilience of the property in the face of climate change;

- The process of creating a nature reserve in the north-western marine area, known as the 'Corsican Nature Reserve' and covering an area of 70,000 ha, is well advanced. It is due to be established in 2025 and its management plan will be drawn up by 2027, following consultation;
- Extensive consultations with all the stakeholders in the area are continuing, with a view to publishing the revised version of the Scandola Reserve decree in 2025. The draft decree includes a ban on anchoring throughout the reserve, day and night. In the meantime, various regulatory provisions already apply to the entire maritime perimeter of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

Excessive tourism, which is the subject of ongoing studies by a number of stakeholders, remains the main threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The sustainable tourism strategy, which is essential to alleviate this pressure and has been requested by the Committee since 2013, has still not been finalised. While awaiting the results of the study currently ongoing on recreational boating in Corsica and within the perimeter of the property, the available data show a steady increase in the number of visitors, due to excessive commercialisation. This growth could continue to have a negative impact on the OUV of the property, particularly its biodiversity, despite the restrictions and studies underway. It seems clear that in order to protect the OUV of the property, it will be necessary to drastically limit the visitor numbers in the property.

Although the number of Osprey pairs remains stable, the low reproductive success remains a cause for serious concern. In addition to boat traffic, other factors likely to affect their reproductive success have been identified.. It is recommended that specific studies be carried out to elucidate all the possible causes of the species' low reproductive success in the property. In addition, it is also recommended that the measures taken be monitored, particularly with regard to the effectiveness of the perimeter of quiet zones around nesting sites, currently limited to 250 m, and compliance with this perimeter by recreational boaters and boatmen. The World Heritage Centre continues to receive complaints from civil society actors that not all nesting sites have been identified and communicated, and that the quiet zones are not respected by certain tourist operators. Pending finalisation of the sustainable tourism strategy, it would seem necessary to take urgent measures to reinforce the protection measures in place during the nesting season.

The national action plan currently being finalised should include measures to deal with these threats in the specific context of the property. The situation is even more uncertain for the peregrine falcon and the bearded vulture, two species that contributed to the recognition of criterion (x) when the property was listed. It is strongly recommended that current scientific monitoring be extended to these key species and that the results be reported in the next state of conservation report to be prepared by the State Party.

Anthropogenic pressures are compounded by the effects of climate change, already visible through the introduction of invasive alien species and the impact on certain invertebrates, such as the red gorgonian and red coral, as previously reported. The urgent measures requested by the Committee have still not been implemented due to the delay in developing the Management Plan, despite the projects underway. As a result, these effects are unfortunately likely to intensify. It is therefore recommended to reiterate the urgency of implementing the climate change monitoring and adaptation measures foreseen in the draft Management Plan, as well as to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated and more detailed assessment of the impacts of climate change on the OUV as soon as possible.

The progress made in developing an integrated Management Plan for the property, requested by the Committee more than a decade ago (Decision **37 COM 7B.17**), in particular the strengthening of scientific knowledge, although encouraging, must be speeded up because of the urgency of the threats. It is imperative that the State Party finalise this plan as soon as possible and transmit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

The progress made in revising the 1975 decree for the Scandola Nature Reserve, and in creating the Corsican Nature Reserve (planned for 2025), is to be welcomed. However, it is crucial to ensure that this revision results in a strengthening of the property's protection status in order to preserve its OUV, and that the protection status of the new Corsican Nature Reserve is sufficiently strong to ensure better conservation of the property's integrity. In addition, the State Party's commitment to submit a request for a minor boundary modification to extend the property and align its boundaries with those of recently

established protections in force in the marine area is positive. However, it is essential to ensure that the Scandola marine area is included in the nature reserve and in an extended perimeter of the property, in order to guarantee a maximum level of protection and coherent management. Pending the conclusion of these processes, it is recommended that measures be strengthened to ensure strict compliance with the regulations already applicable to the entire maritime perimeter of the property.

Given the factors that continue to affect the property, including the impacts of tourism activities, the State Party should be invited to organise a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN reactive monitoring mission in the summer of 2026, during the peak tourism season. The aim of this mission would be to study the impact of tourism on the OUV of the property, to assess its general state of conservation and to examine the effectiveness of its management system, including the protective perimeter.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.23

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **37 COM 7B.19** and **45 COM 7B.92**, adopted respectively at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) and its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Notes</u> the efforts reported by the State Party to develop a sustainable tourism strategy for the property;
- 4. <u>Notes again with concern</u> that, despite these efforts, over-visitation remains a persistent threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular its biodiversity, and <u>urges</u> the State Party to finalise the sustainable tourism strategy to alleviate this pressure;
- 5. Reiterates its concern at the prolonged delay in development of the Management Plan and reiterates its request to the State Party to finalise, as soon as possible, a comprehensive Management Plan covering the entire property, including concrete measures to reduce the impacts of tourism and strengthen conservation mechanisms, and to submit this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to its adoption;
- 6. <u>Expresses its utmost concern</u> about the low reproductive success rate of the osprey in the property, <u>notes</u> the identification of other factors that may negatively affect the reproduction of the species, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to strengthen specific conservation measures for this species, in particular by fully implementing the national action plan currently being finalised, while ensuring regular scientific monitoring;
- 7. Also requests the State Party to put in place a system for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of measures taken to date to safeguard the values and attributes of the OUV of the property, and encourages the extension of current scientific monitoring to other key species, such as the peregrine falcon and bearded vulture, in order to assess their conservation status in the property, and to share the results with the World Heritage Centre;
- 8. While regretting that the urgent measures foreseen in the draft Management Plan have not yet been put in place, <u>also takes note</u> of the ongoing projects and measures envisaged to address the impacts of climate change, as reported above, and <u>reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to urgently implement the climate change monitoring and adaptation measures foreseen in the draft Management Plan, and to provide the World

- Heritage Centre with an updated and more detailed assessment of the impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property as soon as possible;
- 9. <u>Welcomes positively</u> the progress made in revising the 1975 decree for the Scandola Nature Reserve and in creating the Corsican Nature Reserve, and <u>calls on</u> the State Party to ensure that these initiatives guarantee the highest possible level of protection, including the integration of the Scandola marine area into an enlarged reserve consistent with conservation objectives;
- 10. <u>Notes</u> the commitment of the State Party to submit a request for a Minor Boundary Modification of the property to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, in order to align new and existing protection regimes, and <u>also encourages</u> the State Party to strengthen measures to ensure strict compliance with existing regulations within the current maritime perimeter;
- 11. <u>Strongly encourages</u> the State Party to strengthen collaboration with local communities, tourism operators and stakeholders in the development and implementation of conservation measures, including regulatory review and boundary extension processes, in order to ensure participatory and sustainable management of the property;
- 12. <u>Further requests</u> the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to be organised in the summer of 2026, during the peak tourist season, to assess the overall state of conservation of the property, including the negative impact of tourism activities on its OUV and the effectiveness of the management system, and <u>further requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an interim report on the implementation of the above, in order to support the preparation of the said mission;
- 13. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

24. Durmitor National Park (Montenegro)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

25. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001: joint UNESCO/UNDP mission; 2007, 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major linear utilities (gas pipeline construction plans)
- Ground transport infrastructure (impacts of a road project across the property)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents/, and reporting the following:

- The Altai gas pipeline, classified as a federally important project in the Land-Use Planning Scheme of the Russian Federation (LPS RF) for pipeline transport, is overseen by the Ministry of Energy. Relevant project documentation will be provided in due course;
- Currently, there are no plans for tourism infrastructure on Lake Teletskoye that would require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):
- The Brekchiya gold ore area is licensed for geological survey, exploration and gold ore mining, valid until 31 December 2025, with mining to be completed by the same date. At the Maly Kalychak deposit, licensed until 11 August 2027, exploration work has been completed and mining operations cannot proceed until the development project is approved;
- Information is provided on the protection regime of the Belukha Mountain Nature Park, the Ukok Quiet Zone and the Lake Teletskoye buffer zone, in addition to the Katunsky State Nature Reserve and the Altaisky State Nature Reserve;
- The area of Lake Teletskoye outside the Altaisky State Nature Reserve is currently not under any legal protection, which prevents effective management and control. To address this, the State Party is planning to create a protected zone to include the unprotected portion of the lake, with the aim of safeguarding its ecosystem under federal nature conservation legislation;
- The Katunsky State Nature Reserve collaborates with protected areas across the transboundary zone of the Great Altai, including in Kazakhstan, Mongolia and, more recently, China, where joint scientific expeditions in 2023-24 explored integrating protected areas into the UNESCO transboundary Great Altai Biosphere Reserve;
- Additionally, the Altaisky State Nature Reserve actively participates in regional conservation programmes, including long-term cross-border collaboration with Mongolia's Silkhem National Park, focusing on protecting transboundary species like the snow leopard and Altai argali sheep.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is once again regrettable that the State Party did not fully respond to the Committee's requests or provide the information required to enable the assessment of the state of conservation of the property, notably with regard to the exact alternative route of the proposed Altai gas pipeline and the exact location and information on the proposed tourism infrastructure at Lake Teletskoye.

Whilst the State Party reports that information related to the Altai gas pipeline will be forthcoming, it is recalled that this information has been repeatedly requested by the Committee since 2019 (Decisions 43 COM 7B.16 in 2019, 44 COM 7B.106 in 2021 and 45 COM 7B.95 in 2023). It is essential that detailed information on the location, as well as the results of any EIA, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to the commencement of the project in order to assess whether it may pose a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

It is concerning that the request of the Committee to extend the Altaisky State Nature Reserve component to provide legal protection status to the entire Lake Teletskoye has not yet been addressed. Recalling the position of the Committee that parts of the buffer zone of the Lake Teletskoye component of the property remain without legal protection – which is contrary to the requirements of the Operational Guidelines –, it is essential that the State Party take urgent action in response to this long-standing request.

The information that tourism infrastructure on Lake Teletskoye does not require an EIA is noted. However, more detailed information is required to support such a conclusion, including the exact location and plans of the project.

Of further concern is the reported approval of the exploitation of the Brekchiya gold deposit, believed to be located in the vicinity of the property, with operations set to conclude by the end of 2025. However, it remains unclear whether the potential impacts on the OUV of the property have been assessed through a full EIA. Until the aforementioned documentation has been submitted for review by IUCN, the State Party should be requested to cease operations to ensure that the project has been assessed in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that it will not have a negative impact on the property's OUV. Regarding the exploitation of the Maly Kalychak deposit, the Committee should urge the State Party not to approve this before the results of an EIA have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

The continued transboundary cooperation with relevant agencies and protected areas in China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia is again welcomed. The Committee should encourage the States Parties concerned to explore the feasibility of a possible further extension of this serial property to also include components in China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.25

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decisions 43 COM 7B.16, 44 COM 7B.106 and 45 COM 7B.95, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Expresses once again its utmost regret</u> that the State Party did not provide sufficiently elaborated information on the different points raised by the Committee in its previous decisions to enable an adequate assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
- 4. <u>Urges once again</u> the State Party to provide detailed information on the exact route of the proposed Altai gas pipeline and the current status of the pipeline project as soon as possible and no later than **1 February 2026**;
- 5. <u>Reiterates its concern</u> that parts of the buffer zone of the Lake Teletskoye component of the property remain without legal protection, in contradiction with the requirements of the

Operational Guidelines, and <u>urges furthermore</u> the State Party to expedite this extension and to ensure that legal protection is also extended to the buffer zone of the Lake Teletskoye component of the property;

- 6. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to provide further information on the scope and plans for the proposed tourism infrastructure at Lake Teletskoye, including information on the planning processes and justification for the decision-making process that excludes the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):
- 7. Requests, as a matter of urgency, the State Party to cease all mining operations at the Brekchiya deposit and not to approve the exploitation of the Maly Kalychak deposit, until the EIAs for both mining operations have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, including a specific assessment of the potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property to ensure that it will not be negatively impacted;
- 8. <u>Encourages again</u> the States Parties of the Russian Federation, China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia to explore the feasibility of a potential further extension of the property to also include components in China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia;
- 9. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

26. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

27. Natural System of Wrangel Island Reserve (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

28. Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1995

Criteria (vii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / management plan / institutional factors (changes to the boundaries of Yugyd Va National Park)
- Mining (gold mining inside the property)
- Impact of tourism / visitor / recreation (need for a sustainable tourism management strategy)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/documents/, reporting the following:

- No mining activities are conducted in the Yugyd Va National Park or near the Chudnoye gold deposit. The mining company JSC Zoloto Inty (formerly CJSC Gold Minerals) has removed its equipment from the site;
- Federal law ensures the protection of the property, and there have been no changes to the boundaries of the components of the property. The buffer zone of Pechora-Ilychsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve is now under federal legal protection, allowing for stricter conservation measures;
- Development of ecological routes, including improvements to trails, facilities and signage, has reduced tourism impacts. A 10-year Recreational Activities Plan (RAP) for the Yugyd Va National Park is under development and is planned to be approved in 2025. Once completed, a sustainable tourism management strategy will be developed;
- Monitoring of tourism impacts on tundra ecosystems is conducted biennially. Strengthened
 protection has reduced violations significantly, especially in vulnerable areas. In 2024,
 25 environmental violations were recorded, however there were no illegal activities such as
 logging or mining;
- Continued implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (2017-2031) focuses on protection, restoration, research and regulated tourism.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The steps towards the development of a sustainable tourism management plan for the entire property, as previously requested by the Committee, are positive, although there has been some delay. It is important that the State Party expedite the development of the tourism management strategy, so that focus can be placed on its implementation. Progress should be reported to the Committee and should include monitoring indicators to assess the impacts of visitation, in particular those associated with helicopter tourism, on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Ongoing efforts to develop the RAP for the Yugyd Va National Park are welcomed, and the State Party should be encouraged to submit this to the World Heritage Centre once approved.

The confirmation that the boundaries of the Yugyd Va National Park have not changed, in addition to the reiterated assurance that no exploration or extraction of minerals has been carried out within the property, is positive. The suspension of the mining licence held by Zoloto Inty JSC (formerly Gold Minerals CJSC) is also reassuring. However, the State Party should be urged once again to unequivocally revoke all mining exploration and exploitation licences granted inside the property and to confirm that the legal protection of the site prohibits such activities within the property, in line with the firm stance of the Committee that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status.

The confirmation by the State Party that the buffer zone of Pechora-Ilychsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve is under federal legal protection is noted, thus maintaining the status as at the time of inscription. However, as previously requested by the Committee, the State Party should be requested to provide a comprehensive list of permitted activities in each area of the property to ensure effective management of the property in accordance with its zonation scheme.

While information regarding the human resources available for the implementation of the 2017-2031 Integrated Management Plan for the property is acknowledged, the Committee's previous concerns regarding the financial resources available for the property's effective management should be addressed. The State Party should confirm that sufficient financial resources have been allocated to effectively implement the management plan for the property.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.28

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **44 COM 7B.108** and **45 COM 7B.96** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to develop a sustainable tourism management strategy for the entire property and to report on its implementation, including monitoring indicators to assess the impacts associated with visitation, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to share with the World Heritage Centre the Recreational Activities Plan for the Yugyd Va National Park once it is approved;
- 4. <u>Reiterates its established position</u> that mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, and <u>urges once again</u> the State Party to unequivocally revoke the mining exploration and exploitation licences granted inside the property and to confirm that the legal protection of the site does not permit any mining or exploration within the property;
- 5. <u>Also requests</u> the State Party to clarify the zonation within the property in the buffer zone of the Pechora-Ilychsky State Nature Biosphere Reserve component by providing a comprehensive list of the permitted activities in this component of the property;
- 6. <u>Recalls</u> its concern regarding the financial resources available for the management of the property and <u>further requests</u> the State Party to confirm that sufficient resources have been allocated for the effective implementation of the management plan;
- 7. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

29. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 1997: IUCN mission; February 2001: UNESCO mission; May 2004: UNESCO-IUCN mission; April 2006: IUCN Retrospective Inventory mission; August/September 2007 and August 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal activities (illegal salmon fishing)
- Mining (gold mining)
- Major linear utilities (gas pipeline)
- Renewable energy facilities (development of a geothermal power station)
- Fires (wildfires)
- Management and institutional factors (boundary changes)
- Governance (lack of management structure and coordination system)
- Ground transport infrastructure (construction of the Esso-Palana road)
- Legal framework (need for the development of a comprehensive national legal framework for the protection and management of natural properties)
- Decline in populations of wild reindeer and snow sheep
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure: impacts of proposed tourism infrastructure development 'Three Volcanoes Park')
- Management systems/management plan

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2025, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/documents/, reporting the following:

- The implementation of the Action Plan for the property has continued, including the establishment
 of a coordinating body under the Ecological Council of the Kamchatka region, boundary review
 to align the nationally protected areas with the property boundaries, Environmental Impact
 Assessments (EIA) for projects within the property and in its vicinity, sustainable tourism practices
 and carrying capacity assessments, as well as the implementation of an environmental monitoring
 system;
- A draft resolution on the creation of the Volcanoes of Kamchatka National Park has been prepared and is awaiting the completion of the approval process;
- Upon creation of the National Park, the State Party will begin work on the establishment of a buffer zone around the Park, including the definition of its boundaries, protection measures, and land and water use regulations, which is expected to include Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya Bays;
- The Three Volcanoes Park tourism development project is to be located outside the property;

- A management plan for the Kronotsky State Reserve and the South Kamchatka Wildlife Refuge
 has been in place since 2017 and is adapted to current conditions. Due to changes in federal
 regulations, updates are being made to include 'route passports' for visitation, restrictions on
 tourism activities, monitoring systems to assess recreational capacity and methods for calculating
 the maximum recreational capacity;
- Tourism and Recreation Cluster projects seek to minimise impacts on protected areas by shifting
 tourism infrastructure outside their boundaries, regulate visitor flows by developing alternative
 tourism routes, and involve local communities by supporting local accommodation and tourism
 services. The clusters have been defined as the 'Zapovednaya Kamchatka', near the South
 Kamchatka Wildlife Refuge; and the 'Geysers and Volcanoes of Kamchatka', near the Kronotsky
 State Nature Reserve and the Kliuchevskoy Nature Park;
- Details are provided on the configuration and zoning of the property's components, including
 plans to establish a buffer zone for the Kronotsky State Nature Reserve. The report outlines the
 resolutions establishing the functional zoning of the protected areas managed by the Kamchatka
 Government at the time of their designation;
- Research on biodiversity, tourism impacts and conservation strategies is ongoing. Public engagement is ensured through educational events, volunteer programmes and media outreach;
- The State Party expresses its readiness to explore the possibility of holding a World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission in the future.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The ongoing implementation of an Action Plan focusing on management improvements, boundary review and threat mitigation is noted with appreciation, including the establishment of the working group to ensure an integrated approach to the management of the property. Plans to establish a buffer zone around the Kronotsky State Nature Reserve component are also noted. However, further detailed information is required on the activities undertaken, particularly in relation to the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 mission to the property.

The ongoing process to establish the Volcanoes of Kamchatka National Park is noted. However, it is of utmost concern that the current proposal for the boundaries of the National Park would place parts of the property in the buffer zone, in particular in the context of previous proposals for infrastructure development in these areas and ongoing plans for the development of the Three Volcanoes Park. It is therefore recommended that the Committee again urge the State Party to ensure that the new National Park encompasses the components of the property in this area, as defined at the time of inscription, including the Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya Bays, and establish a deadline by which confirmation, supported by appropriate documentation, should be submitted. In this regard, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee recall that inadequate legal protection constitutes a clear potential danger to the property, as outlined under Paragraph 180(b)(i) of the Operational Guidelines. Moreover, the recommendation of the 2019 mission to strengthen the zonation of the nature park components of the property remains to be implemented, given that, according to the mission's conclusion, the current zonation does not meet the requirements for the conservation of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

It is again noted that the Three Volcanoes Park project has been relocated outside the property, but it is regrettable that no further information has been provided on the current status and design of the project, including maps showing where infrastructure is planned in relation to the boundaries of the property, as requested by the Committee. The State Party should submit this information to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible in order to enable an informed decision to be made on the compatibility of the project with the conservation of the property's OUV. Moreover, it is recalled that the Committee specifically requested the submission of an EIA for the project to assess its potential impact on the OUV due to its proximity to the property. It is therefore also of concern that no such documentation has been provided by the State Party. The Committee should also reiterate its request to the State Party to undertake the necessary impact assessments in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and to submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

While the report details ongoing tourism planning efforts, including carrying capacity assessments, route regulations for parts of the property and the creation of tourism clusters, it does not confirm the completion of a comprehensive Master Plan for Tourism Development, as recommended by the

2019 mission and requested by the Committee. The State Party should therefore also take urgent measures to develop this Plan to ensure that tourism development is undertaken in a strategic manner that is consistent with the protection of OUV.

The invitation extended by the State Party in May 2024 for a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission is appreciated but has not yet been undertaken due to logistical constraints. The mission to the property should assess the adequacy of the legal protection of the property and the consistency of proposed tourism-related developments with the conservation of the OUV of the property, in particular the Three Volcanoes Park, the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 mission to the property, as well as the overall state of conservation of the property.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.29

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **44 COM 7B.109**, **45 COM 7B.26** and **46 COM 7B.53**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the implementation of an Action Plan, in particular through the establishment of a working group for the integrated management of the property, and the ongoing progress towards defining a buffer zone around the Kronotsky State Nature Reserve component;
- 4. Recalls again that World Heritage status requires that the legal protection of the property is adequate to protect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and that modifications to the legal protection may constitute a potential danger to the property, as provided for in Paragraph 180(b)(i) of the Operational Guidelines;
- 5. <u>Urges again</u> the State Party to ensure that the new Volcanoes of Kamchatka National Park comprises the entire territory of the South Kamchatka and Kluchevskoy Nature Parks, as included in the property at the time of inscription, including the Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya Bays, requests that this be achieved and confirmed, with supporting documentation, by **1 February 2026** at the latest, and requests furthermore the State Party to revise the zoning of all nature park components of the property in order to meet the requirements for the protection of the OUV of the property;
- 6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the revised Three Volcanoes Park project, to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, together with detailed information on the current status and design of the project, including maps showing where infrastructure is planned in relation to the boundaries of the property, for review by IUCN before proceeding further with the implementation of the project;
- 7. <u>Also reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to prepare a Master Plan for Tourism Development in the property, as recommended by the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;

- 8. <u>Also requests</u> the State Party to urgently submit the following information to the World Heritage Centre:
 - a) Detailed information on the efforts undertaken and planned to revise the zoning of the nature park components of the property to bring them in line with the requirements of protecting the OUV of the property,
 - b) Progress on the designation of buffer zones for all components of the property, including those foreseen in the proposed National Park, as well as details of the activities permitted in each buffer zone,
 - c) Progress towards the development of a Tourism Development Master Plan based on actual figures and projections, setting clear thresholds for the carrying capacity of the property in its entirety and of its individual components, including consideration of infrastructure development, in line with the conservation of the property's OUV,
 - d) Detailed information on the boundaries, zonation and regulations in each of the protected areas covering the components of the property, in particular those proposed for the South Kamchatka and Kluchevskoy Nature Park components, including a clear justification of the proposed approach to the delineation of the National Park boundaries, including their consistency with the conservation of the property as a whole;
 - Detailed results of any EIAs undertaken for elements of the Three Volcanoes Park project, including specific consideration of the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
- 9. <u>Further reiterates its request</u> that the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, when feasible, assess the adequacy of the legal protection of the property and the consistency of proposed tourism-related developments with the conservation of the OUV of the property, in particular the Three Volcanoes Park, the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 mission to the property, as well as the overall state of conservation of the property;
- 10. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

30. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

31. Doñana National Park (Spain)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

33. Pantanal Conservation Area (Brazil)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

<u>Previous Committee Decisions</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/999/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999) Total amount approved: USD 6,000

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/999/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Fires

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/999/

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/4317, which reports as follows:

- In 2024, Brazil, including the Pantanal, experienced the worst drought in 75 years, resulting in the most severe wildfire crisis on record;
- In 2023, wildfires affected 67,188 hectares, representing 35.7% of the property, a 27% increase from 2022 but a 40% decrease from 2020. Only 5% of these fires were caused by natural events, with most linked to human activities such as cattle ranching, land clearing, and honey harvesting:
- Cumulative impacts of drought and wildfires on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) since 2020 remain unclear due to budgetary constraints and the postponement of assessments. The State Party remains committed to conducting the assessment;
- The flooded surface of the Pantanal was 61% below the historical average in 2023, and in May 2024, water levels at part of the Paraguay River reached record lows. Climate change is severely affecting the property's hydrology, contributing to more frequent and unpredictable extreme weather events;
- The headwater highlands have lost 41% of their natural cover between 1985 and 2023, due to deforestation, land use change, and infrastructure development;
- Monitoring systems, equipment, increased fire workforce, training and new infrastructure to prevent and combat fires are in place. Fires brigades are also working on preventive tasks, environmental education and post fire restoration:
- New public policies for integrated fire management and deforestation control have been adopted, including the 2024 National Policy on Integrated Fire Management;

- Interagency firefighting coordination was announced in June 2024, involving the federal government and governors from ten states. Measures include halting prescribed burns and increasing resources for fire suppression. Fines for fire-related violations have been increased:
- A 2022 study identified that areas targeted for post-fire recovery have high potential for natural regeneration, recommending passive restoration strategies. Efforts should focus on protecting recovering areas from new fires;
- Cooperation with the States Parties of Canada, United States of America, South Africa, Peru, Democratic Republic of the Congo and France is ongoing or in negotiation;
- In response to a letter sent by the World Heritage Centre to the State Party on 4 December 2024 concerning a proposed commercial waterway project on the Paraguay River upstream and downstream of the property, the State Party reports that the property is highly vulnerable to disruptions upstream and the possibility of industrial or large-scale navigation should be excluded from the northern stretch of the Paraguay River. For other freight navigation, the State Party recognizes the need for an Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) to address potential impacts, including infrastructure, freight traffic, hydrology, ecological processes, Indigenous lands, and community consultations. Recent initiatives to reopen navigation for barge convoys and port facilities have led to preparatory studies. Meanwhile, maintenance dredging initiated in 2024 has been halted until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is completed.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The recording of the most severe drought in 75 years, resulting in 35.7% of the property impacted by wildfire, of which 95% of fires were caused by human activities is deeply concerning. Efforts to prevent and combat wildfires, including interagency responses, infrastructure improvements, increased fire workforce, public policy updates, and enhanced monitoring systems, are noted with appreciation. However, the consecutive years of record-breaking wildfires is likely impacting on the OUV of the property and therefore, it is crucial to assess the cumulative impacts of this threat as soon as possible to guide response and recovery measures. The State Party should be requested once again to conduct this impact assessment and submit the report to the World Heritage Centre for IUCN review.

Land use change, deforestation, infrastructure development, and productive activities, such as cattle farming and honey harvesting, continue to add pressure on the property and its surrounding areas. Strengthening environmental education and adopting a participatory approach that actively involves indigenous peoples and local communities are critical steps to mitigate these increasing pressures. Climate change is also affecting the property's hydrology, significantly reducing the flooded area and contributing to more frequent and unpredictable extreme weather events.

Given the above pressures on the property, the additional impacts from the proposed increased freight navigation on the Paraguay River and new port facilities upstream of the property is highly concerning. Noting that the Paraguay River flows through the property, these developments could potentially impact the property's OUV, and therefore it is important that the IEA, already recognized as a need by the State Party is undertaken to take a holistic approach to the proposed development, before this proposal moves ahead and before any decisions are taken. The key principles outlined in the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context should be followed in this regard.

The State Party's knowledge exchange on fire management strategies with other States Parties facing similar threats is welcomed. Continuing these exchanges is encouraged, along with the monitoring and assessment of the results from new fire prevention and response measures. Sharing lessons learned could benefit other States Parties managing natural World Heritage properties.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.33

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **44 COM 7B.195** and **45 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

- 3. <u>Notes with deep concern</u> that the most severe drought in 75 years is affecting the country, resulting in a decrease of flooded area and significant wildfire damage within the property caused by human activities;
- 4. <u>Commends</u> the State Party for its efforts to prevent and combat wildfires, including interagency coordination and improvements in infrastructure, public policy, brigades and monitoring systems, <u>also notes</u> that climate change has exacerbated the extreme weather events, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to continue strengthening its capacity in fire management, including prevention and mitigation measures;
- 5. <u>Reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to assess the impact of wildfire on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to submit this assessment to the World Heritage Centre;
- 6. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to strengthen environmental education programmes and the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities to reduce pressures on the property;
- 7. <u>Notes with concern</u> the potential impacts of the proposed commercial waterway project on the Paraguay River which entails increased freight navigation and new port facilities upstream of the property, <u>also requests</u> the State Party to conduct an Integrated Environmental Assessment for the proposed development to inform decision-making and to avoid negative impacts on the OUV of the property in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the report to the World Heritage Center for review by IUCN;
- 8. <u>Recognizes</u> the impacts of fires on a number of natural World Heritage properties, <u>welcomes</u> the State Party's cooperation with other States Parties to address fire management and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to continue this exchange of knowledge and best practices of fire management strategies;
- 9. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

37. El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve (Mexico)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

41. Canaima National Park (Venezuela)

AFRICA

43. Okavango Delta (Botswana)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/documents

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2017-2017) Total amount approved: USD 27,080

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to the property: USD 1,100,000 of which USD 300,000 (USD 150,000 from the Flanders Funds-in-Trust (2017-2021) and USD 150,000 from the contribution of the Government of Norway to the World Heritage Fund) for the community management of protected areas for conservation (COMPACT) programme in cooperation with the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, and USD 800,000 to the States Parties of Botswana, Angola, and Namibia to support the transboundary extension of the property (USD 400,000 from the Government of Flanders and USD 400,000 from the contribution of the Government of Norway to the World Heritage Fund). Total amount planned to the property: EUR 2,500,000 from the European Union.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Transboundary management of water resources
- · Lack of wildlife monitoring programme
- · Animal sanitation and diseases
- Mining exploration licenses overlapping with the buffer zone
- Management and governance
- Engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples
- Alien invasive species

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/documents/, reporting the following:

- The implementation of the Okavango Delta Management Plan (ODMP) 2021–2028 is ongoing. Resources for its implementation have increased, and institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement, including community-based conservation initiatives;
- Veterinary fences, though not reduced in number, are better maintained and monitored to reduce disease and human-wildlife conflicts, and wildlife corridors have been established to support free wildlife movement;
- The 2022 Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) aerial survey indicates a healthy elephant population, despite concerns over the high number of carcasses (carcass ratio of 12.8%) in northern Botswana. As for rhinos, poaching incidents have significantly decreased since 2020:

- Climate threats like reduced hydrological flow and sediment changes are addressed through Botswana's National Climate Change Strategy (2018), Policy (2021), and international commitments, like the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement;
- A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) led
 by the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) to guide basin-wide
 sustainable management was finalized in 2022 and annexed to the report, along with the
 Southern African Development Community (SADC) protocol on shared watercourses;
- A feasibility study identifying key ecologically connected areas for the potential transboundary extension of the property into Angola and Namibia, including parts of the Zambezi River Basin, critical for wildlife migration, was finalized in 2022;
- No active prospecting, exploration or mining of any mineral exists within the property and its buffer zone, though one metal prospecting license overlaps the buffer zone and remains subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements. An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was completed in July 2024 for petroleum exploration activities in the Namibian part of the CORB and annexed to the report;
- There are proposed large-scale development projects upstream of the property, including the construction of dams in Angola, and expanded irrigation along the Okavango River in Namibia;
- Borrow pits used for the Okavango River Bridge construction have been decommissioned and rehabilitated, though two illegal borrow pits in the buffer zone remain unrestored and are currently being rehabilitated;
- Other reported potential threats include tourism pressure, pollution, water use, boating, humanelephant conflict, wildfires, and invasive species. A National Human-Wildlife Conflict Strategy and Action Plan is also being finalized;
- Three road projects are planned in the buffer zone for 2024/25 to improve access to remote and critical areas around the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The progress made by the State Party and its partners in implementing the ODMP 2021–2028 is welcomed, especially through increased financial and human resources, strengthened institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement, including community-based conservation initiatives. The State Party is encouraged to continue its efforts and fully implement the ODMP 2021–2028, to support the long-term preservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) through addressing ongoing threats such as tourism pressure, pollution, water use, human-elephant conflict, wildfires, and invasive species.

The ongoing presence of veterinary fences continues to restrict ecological connectivity. However, their improved maintenance and monitoring, alongside the establishment of wildlife corridors to facilitate animal movement, contribute to reduce this impact. It is recommended to encourage the State Party to further assess the ecological impacts of veterinary fences to minimize habitat fragmentation and continue enhancing wildlife corridors.

While the 2022 KAZA TFCA aerial survey confirmed a healthy elephant population, the relatively high carcass ratio (12.8%) in northern Botswana is a matter of concern. On another note, the decrease in rhino poaching incidents since 2020 is noted with appreciation. It is recommended to encourage the State Party, in collaboration with riparian SADC countries, to continue monitoring key wildlife populations, strengthening anti-poaching measures at regional, national, and local levels while implementing a targeted Human-Wildlife Conflict Strategy as a matter of priority. In addition, the feasibility study for the potential transboundary extension of the property into Angola and Namibia covering key ecologically connected areas within the Cubango-Okavango and Zambezi River Basins is a significant achievement in regional conservation planning. The States Parties concerned are encouraged to pursue dialogue and collaboration aimed at progressing the potential transboundary extension of the property.

The State Party's implementation of national climate strategies and its NDCs under the Paris Agreement are noted as efforts to address climate-induced changes, such as reduced hydrological flows and sediment dynamics. However, it is recommended that climate adaptation and resilience are integrated into the property's management and that these efforts are adapted regionally, recognizing the shared vulnerabilities of the broader river basin.

The submission of the SEA for the CORB, is appreciated. The proposed large-scale development projects upstream of the property, including dam construction in Angola and expanded irrigation schemes in Namibia is of great concern. These projects, if implemented without basin-wide coordination, could significantly alter the hydrology of the Delta and negatively impact the property's OUV. It is recommended to urge the State Party to continue engaging with the States Parties of Angola and Namibia to ensure that any such developments within or near the property and buffer zone, including the planned road infrastructures are subject to prior EIA, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, taking into consideration the ODMP, CORB SEA and SADC Protocol, and that relevant information is submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN before any decisions are taken in line with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

It is noted that no active prospecting, exploration or mining is currently active within the property or its buffer zone. However, the presence of a metal prospecting license overlapping the buffer zone, prospecting and exploration licenses outside the buffer zone and ongoing petroleum exploration in northeastern Namibia raise concerns. For the latter, it is appreciated that the EMP for seismic surveys was submitted. In conformity with the Committee's position on the incompatibility between mining and World Heritage status, it is recommended that no mining permits or exploitation licences is granted near the property unless it can be demonstrated through a rigorous EIA, in line with the aforementioned Guidance, that there will be no significant negative impact on the OUV of the property.

The partial rehabilitation of borrow pits used for the Okavango River Bridge construction is acknowledged. However, the existence of two remaining illegal borrow pits highlights the need for stronger regulatory enforcement and must be urgently addressed. The decommissioning programme must include ecological monitoring and explicitly reference the OUV to ensure effective restoration of the affected wetland areas.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.43

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **44 COM 7B.80** and **45 COM 7B.4** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the progress made by the State Party and its partners in implementing the Okavango Delta Management Plan (ODMP) 2021–2028, especially through increased financial and human resources, strengthened institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement, including community-based conservation initiatives, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to continue its efforts and fully implement the ODMP to address ongoing threats such as tourism pressure, pollution, water use, human-elephant conflict, wildfires, and invasive species;
- Acknowledges the improvements in the maintenance and monitoring of veterinary fences and the establishment of wildlife corridors, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to further assess their ecological impacts and continue efforts to enhance wildlife corridors;
- 5. <u>Notes with satisfaction</u> the results of the 2022 Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) aerial survey, which confirmed a healthy elephant population, and reduction in rhino poaching incidents since 2020, <u>expresses concerns</u> over the high carcass ratio (12.8%) found in northern Botswana, and <u>also encourages</u> the State Party and its riparian countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to strengthen anti-poaching efforts at regional, national, and local levels, continue monitoring key wildlife populations, and expedite the development and implementation of a comprehensive Human-Wildlife Conflict Strategy;

- 6. <u>Also welcomes</u> the finalization and submission of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB), led by the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM), as a key step toward basin-wide, evidence-based sustainable development;
- 7. <u>Further welcomes</u> the ongoing discussions on a potential transboundary extension of the property to include ecologically connected areas within the Cubango-Okavango and Zambezi River Basins in Angola and Namibia, and <u>further encourages</u> the States Parties concerned to pursue this dialogue and cooperation to progress towards a possible future nomination of a transboundary extension of the property;
- 8. <u>Also notes</u> the State Party's implementation of national climate strategies and its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement as efforts to address climate-induced changes, <u>recalls</u> that these changes could be worsened by development projects in the CORB, potentially impacting the property's OUV, and <u>urges</u> the State Party to integrate climate adaptation and resilience strategies into the property's management and adopt regionally coordinated efforts in recognition of the shared vulnerabilities of the river basin in coordination with riparian countries:
- 9. Notes with concern the proposed large-scale development projects upstream in Angola and Namibia, including roads infrastructures, dam and irrigation schemes, which may impact the property's OUV if implemented without basin-wide coordination, and also urges the States Parties of Angola, Botswana and Namibia to ensure that any such projects are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, the ODMP, CORB SEA, the SADC Protocol, and paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and that relevant documentation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to any decision-making;
- 10. While noting that no active prospecting, exploration or mining is currently active within the property or its buffer zone, also expresses concern regarding the presence of a metal prospecting license overlapping the buffer zone and beyond the buffer zone in the wider setting of the property, and ongoing petroleum prospecting and exploration in the wider region, and also requests that no mining or exploitation licenses be granted without prior rigorous EIA processes that can demonstrate that there will be no significant negative impact on the OUV of the property;
- 11. <u>Takes note</u> of the completion and submission of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for seismic survey activities related to ongoing petroleum exploration in northeastern Namibia, which is being reviewed by IUCN, and <u>emphasizes however</u> that precautionary measures must be maintained;
- 12. <u>Also acknowledges</u> the State Party's efforts to rehabilitate the borrow pits used during the Okavango River Bridge construction, and <u>further requests</u> the State Party to continue to pursue its efforts to restore the two remaining illegal borrow pits, and to ensure, as previously requested by the Committee, that the decommissioning and rehabilitation programme includes ecological monitoring and explicitly references the property's OUV;
- 13. <u>Recognizes</u> the broad range of regional cooperation frameworks active in the region, including OKACOM, the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), KAZA TFCA, and SADC, <u>stresses</u> the importance of enhancing coordination among these mechanisms to avoid duplication, promote data and resource sharing, and align conservation and development objectives throughout the basin to protect the OUV of the property;

14. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

49. Lake Malawi National park (Malawi)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1986-2025) Total amount approved: USD 185,743

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 in 2015 through the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme (Flanders Funds-in-Trust); USD 45,000 in 2019 and USD 51,000 in 2024 through the UNESCO-Netherlands Funds- in-Trust; USD 650,000 in 2020-2025 through UNESCO-Government of Norway cooperation

Previous monitoring missions

March/April 2014 and March/April 2022: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- · Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Illegal activities
- Invasive / alien freshwater species
- Management systems/ management plan
- Surface water pollution
- Oil and gas exploration/exploitation

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/

Current conservation issues

On 13 December 2024 the State Party of Malawi submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents/, and on 8 January, 5 February, and 25 February 2025 provided updated and additional information, reporting the following:

- Ongoing international support to the national authorities to strengthen the property management include: UNESCO-Norway cooperation for management and community-based conservation activities; African Development Bank (AfDB) for tourism development, rehabilitation of the education centre, park gate, monitoring and equipment; Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project for equipment; IUCN-BIOPAMA/University cooperation for application of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET); African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and USAID/REFRESH for tourism promotion; Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for research and management;
- Existing revenue sharing scheme with communities and cooperation with the Beach Village Committees (BVCs) and the Village Natural Resource Committees (VNRCs), with an umbrella organisation established for VNRCs and a joint management agreement signed;

- Underwater ecological survey of the fish, livelihood survey and a dead wood survey conducted and ongoing development of resource use guidelines;
- Demarcation and clarification of the terrestrial and aquatic boundaries continued, with any change to the legal boundaries requiring a parliament approval;
- Concerning the Mangochi water supply project on the Nkhudzi Hills component of the property, mitigation measures have been implemented including: monitoring illegal activities and resource use; wildfire control measures introduced; regular aquatic ecological monitoring conducted; pavement and waterways constructed along the access road to control erosion and siltation; and trees planted along the park boundary to reduce run-off;
- Ongoing scientific research in cooperation with universities and work to implement the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission;
- All proposed projects potentially affecting the property would be subject to impact assessments as per the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
- Activities to promote tourism to the property include completion of the Monkey Bay–Cape Maclear road upgrade, construction of a new park entry gate, and media publicity;
- Oil exploration activities are being monitored;
- Land degradation and siltation of the watershed, weather related impacts attributed to climate change, expansion of enclave settlements, tourism construction outside the property, waste and pollution, and overfishing are among the identified threats, with anticipated impacts on the property and the cichlid fish, exacerbated by limited management capacity; however, reported long-term data indicate relatively high stability of the cichlid populations and their distribution in the property.

By its letter of 7 August 2023, the State Party reported on the impacts of heavy rains on the siltation of the lake and measures put in place to mitigate the impacts of the Mangochi water supply project.

On 18 July 2024, the State Party sent a letter to inform the World Heritage Centre of another proposed Cape Maclear water supply project in the property by the Southern Region Water Board, with additional information submitted on the project on 6 August 2024. On 25 September 2024, the World Heritage Centre sent a reply, recalling the Committee's Decision **45 COM 7B.74** and the provisions on impact assessment.

On 19 March 2025, the State Party sent a letter along with additional documentation, to inform the World Heritage Centre of the planned rehabilitation project of the existing staff houses at the Lake Malawi National Park.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The progress made by the State Party in recent years, in partnership with several partners, in strengthening cooperation with communities, enhancing scientific work and monitoring, and improving overall protection and management – despite the limited operational budget – is commendable. It is also welcomed that the State Party has shared reports and results of activities with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as requested. It is important that the State Party continue to work to improve coordination between project partners to avoid duplication and improve coherence with management and conservation priorities. While data on cichlid fish indicate that populations are relatively stable in the property, the overall degradation of the watershed and the lake raises concerns about the long-term environmental and socio-economic impacts.

The Retrospective Inventory of the property boundaries should be completed prior to the development of a new property Management Plan, for which the State Party has requested International Assistance, that should be aligned with the ongoing efforts to strengthen the property management, such as by setting up resource use guidelines to address forest degradation in the park. While recognizing the legal procedure to consider expanding the boundaries or establishing buffer zones, the property remains highly vulnerable to human pressure and climate change due to its small size. On the basis of previous Committee decisions (Decisions 44 COM 7B.82 and 45 COM 7B.74) and the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to examine the feasibility of extending the boundaries of the property, notably within the lake, in line with the Operational Guidelines. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are available to assist the State Party.

The continued efforts to mitigate any potential negative impacts of the Mangochi Water Supply Project on the Nkhudzi Hills component of the property are noted. The conclusions of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Complaints Mechanism (CM) for the Southern Region Water Board (SRWB) Water Supply and Sanitation Programme and its Mangochi component confirmed that the project Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) did not comply with EIB's relevant environmental and social standards, and that there were shortcomings in the EIB's risk categorization and project appraisal, which is regrettable (https://www.eib.org/en/about/accountability/complaints/cases/srwb-water-supply-and-sanitation-programme-sg-e-2022-05). The State Party should be requested to continue monitoring and mitigating the negative impacts of the project on the OUV of the property and to enhance collaboration with the SRWB and EIB on implementing the EIB-CM recommendation to conduct a biodiversity assessment to determine the need for further mitigation of residual impacts, and report the results to the Committee.

The State Party also affirms that all projects would be subject to impact assessments in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context. In line with this requirement, the Environmental and Social Management Plan and a Heritage Impact Assessment elaborated by the State Party for the planned rehabilitation of the staff houses within the park is noted. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that there are no significant concerns relating to the potential impacts of the rehabilitation on the OUV of the property that require further consideration. However, the Feasibility Study for the proposed Cape Maclear Water Supply Project in the property has not yet been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and it is regrettable that the Monkey Bay-Cape Maclear Road Upgrade and Rehabilitation Project is already reported to have been completed whilst the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requested by the Committee remains outstanding (45 COM 7B.74). The mitigation measures already taken and being implemented should be clarified. In the context of the concerns raised by the Committee relating to the EIA for the Mangochi Water Supply Project, and with the aim of strengthening the capacity of the national authorities, an impact assessment course was organised by UNESCO, ICCROM and IUCN, in cooperation with the national authorities in the property in February 2025, funded by the Netherlands Funds in Trust and the UNESCO-Norway Cooperation. The development of the EIA for the Cape Maclear Water Supply Project should follow good practice, recalling also Decision 45 COM 7B.74 and that all new major infrastructure should in principle be planned outside the protected zone of this very small property, as noted in the 2023 state of conservation report.

No details were received from the State Party on the status of the oil exploration licences and activities as requested by the Committee. Finally, it is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to continue to report on the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.49

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.74, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the significant efforts made by the State Party, in partnership with several partners and local communities, and despite the limited operational budget, to strengthen the management and protection of the property, <u>thanks</u> the support provided by UNESCO-Norway cooperation, African Development Bank (AfDB), Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project, IUCN-BIOPAMA/University cooperation, African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), USAID/REFRESH project and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to ensure effective coordination between projects and partners to improve effectiveness and coherence with management and conservation priorities;
- 4. <u>Notes with concern</u> that the property remains highly vulnerable to human pressures due to its small size, and that these threats are likely to be exacerbated by the effects of

climate change and the accelerating environmental degradation of the watershed and the lake, <u>reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to assess the feasibility of a potential extension of the property in line with the Operational Guidelines, and to request International Assistance and technical support from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for this work as required;

- 5. Regrets that the European Investment Bank (EIB) Complaints Mechanism (CM) identified shortcomings by the EIB in the appraisal of the Mangochi Water Supply Project and the project's environmental and social risks, and requests the State Party to continue to monitor and mitigate any negative impacts of the project on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), to enhance cooperation with the Southern Region Water Board and EIB on implementing the EIB-CM recommendation to conduct a biodiversity assessment to determine the need for further mitigation of residual impacts, and to provide an update on this in its next state of conservation report;
- 6. Notes again with appreciation the State Party's commitment to ensure that all projects with the potential to impact the property's OUV are subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) conducted in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, however notes with concern that the EIA for the Monkey Bay-Cape Maclear Road Upgrade was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre before proceeding and finalising the construction, and also requests the State Party to provide details of the mitigation measures that were taken during its construction and that are being implemented during its operational phase;
- 7. <u>Takes note</u> of a proposal for a Cape Maclear Water Supply Project in the property, <u>further requests</u> the State Party to clarify the status of this project and to submit the Feasibility Study and the EIA for the project to the World Heritage Centre, considering its potential impact on the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decisions or construction begin;
- 8. Reiterates again its concern regarding the continuation of oil exploration activities in blocks 2 and 3 covering a large part of Lake Malawi, which pose a potentially severe risk to the lake ecosystem and the OUV of the property, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to clarify at the earliest opportunity on the status of the oil exploration licences and related EIAs within Lake Malawi, and to report on the outcome of the mining sector policy consultations and to ensure that EIAs are developed in accordance with the aforementioned Guidance and and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any potential exploratory drilling is permitted to proceed;
- 9. <u>Also welcomes</u> the plan to develop a new Management Plan for the property, <u>requests furthermore</u> the State Party to coordinate this work with the ongoing efforts to strengthen the property management, including through the resource use guidelines, and <u>simultanously expedite</u> the Retrospective Inventory of the property boundaries, and <u>also encourages</u> the State Party to request technical assistance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for this latter, as required;
- 10. <u>Further reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to continue to report on the implementation of the recommendations from the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission;
- 11. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

ARAB STATES

53. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen)

MIXED PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

54. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania, North Macedonia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

55. Laponian Area (Sweden)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

56.	Ancient Maya	City	and	Protected	Tropical	Forests	of	Calakmul,	Campeche
	(Mexico)								

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

57. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

AFRICA

59. Cliff of Bandiagara (land of the Dogons) (Mali)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (v)(vii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

<u>Previous Committee Decisions</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 10 (from 1988-2024) Total amount approved: USD 131,929

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: in 2020, US\$ 984,818 by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage (ALIPH) for the "Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of the Built Heritage of Bandiagara"

Previous monitoring missions

July 2019: Needs assessment mission on the built and intangible cultural heritage as well as objects and practices associated with the Cliff of Bandiagara (joint Mali-UNESCO mission), conducted in the framework of the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund.

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient site management means
- Illicit trafficking of cultural property
- Instable security situation
- Intercommunity conflict between the Dogons and the Fulani

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, the State Party submitted an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/documents/, which provides the following information:

- The security situation remains fragile, affecting the conservation of the property. After a period of calm, large-scale attacks have resumed since the second half of 2024 with damage to the tangible and intangible heritage and loss of human life, particularly in the villages of Tégourou, Dourou and Songho inside the property. Recent attacks have mainly taken place outside the boundaries of the property;
- However, in addition to the commitment of the security and defence forces, there has been a strong mobilisation of local communities, administrative and political leaders, civil society and all socio-professional groups in favour of a way out of the crisis and for socio-cultural and economic development;
- A steering committee was set up in 2022 for the project Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of the Built Heritage of the Cliffs of Bandiagara, funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage (ALIPH), and similar to the multidisciplinary working group requested by the World Heritage Committee. The project, scheduled for completion in 2025, has enabled the reconstruction of a number of houses and granaries in three villages, while work in the fourth is underway, albeit at a slower pace for security reasons;

- The property benefits from other projects supported by the Association Dogon Initiative (ADI) and community initiatives to safeguard cultural heritage in a number of areas, including the restoration of sites and monuments, inventory and documentation, and raising awareness;
- Preparations for the ritual ceremony of "Sigi", which will begin in 2027, have begun, but the support of UNESCO and other partners is being sought;
- The Management and Conservation Plan for the property is currently being updated with the support of international assistance granted in 2024. Insufficient human and financial resources continue to hamper effective and sustainable management of the property and the State Party undertakes to provide reports on the natural values of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The report submitted by the State Party provides ample information to enable a proper assessment of the difficulties and efforts made to ensure the management and conservation of the property, given the continuing worrying security situation, despite the commendable commitment of the security and defence forces. The hardship experienced by the population, in addition to the targeted or collateral damage to people and property, is compounded by the increasingly high cost of living, caused in particular by the restriction on community movement in some areas, such as access to fields and pastures, which are major sources of income for the inhabitants. This situation is leading to an exodus of young people and a shortage of labour, including for the upkeep of heritage buildings.

Faced with such a situation, the progress made in terms of rehabilitation work, fund-raising and, above all, the commitment of local communities is encouraging. They reflect the resilience and determination of all stakeholders to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The collaboration and pooling of efforts, bringing together local communities, administrative and political leaders, civil society and the various socio-professional strata, are welcomed and offer hope for a way out of the crisis.

It is also appreciated that the State Party was able to provide fairly detailed information on the villages and localities affected by attacks, as well as on the villages that have benefited from rehabilitation and reconstruction support. The overview provided by the attached map is particularly useful.

Progress on the ALIPH-funded project has been positive. But the new destruction of the village of Tégourou, recently rebuilt thanks to this project, is regrettable and shows the fragility that threatens the property and its wider setting. It is recommended that efforts be maintained to safeguard heritage in all its facets, following the example of the project to promote traditional textiles, the preparations for ritual ceremony of "Sigi", and the ADI's ongoing commitment, particularly with communities.

The setting up of a steering committee for the ALIPH project, acting as a multidisciplinary working group as requested by the Committee (Decision **44 COM 7B.72**) is noted, although it is not stated to what extent this committee deals with all issues concerning the conservation of the property outside the project for which it was created. It would therefore be useful for the State Party to clarify whether measures are being taken to ensure the functioning of this steering committee beyond the project supported by ALIPH, which will end in 2025, and to share the planning of the various activities as soon as possible, as indicated in its report.

It is regrettable that in its report, the State Party does not really address the natural values of the property and the impact of the security situation on these values, announcing only that it will provide reports on them, without specifying the deadlines. While recalling the natural attributes linked to criterion (vii) which justified its inscription, it should be stressed that these values have long been neglected in the face of concerns about cultural values. It is therefore recommended that the State Party submit a more general report providing information on all aspects related to the conservation, management and governance of the property, including the capacities available both at the level of the Cultural Mission of Bandiagara and at the level of the capital, particularly in relation to natural values.

In view of the above, the current update of the Management and Conservation Plan for the property, supported by international assistance, comes at the right time to develop an action plan that will take fuller account of both cultural and natural values.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.59

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> **44 COM 7B.72** and **45 COM 7B.29**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
- 3. Reiterates its great concern at the ongoing insecurity and its impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, despite the commendable commitment of the security and defence forces, in particular following a further intensification of attacks inside and outside the property which continue to have a strong impact on the population throughout the area;
- 4. While deploring the loss of human life, <u>strongly condemns</u> the deliberate acts of destruction of cultural heritage within and in the wider context of the property perpetrated by armed groups and <u>calls on</u> all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action likely to cause damage to the property;
- 5. <u>Congratulates</u> the State Party on the progress made in the rehabilitation, reconstruction and promotion of the heritage in all its forms, tangible and intangible, on the fund-raising initiatives, and on the pooling of efforts among different sections of the population, and <u>strongly encourages</u> the State Party to maintain this dynamic of resilience;
- 6. <u>Thanks</u> in particular the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage (ALIPH) for the substantial support provided to the "Project for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of the Built Heritage of the Cliff of Bandiagara", which will end in 2025, <u>also congratulates</u> the State Party, and in particular all the actors in the local communities, on the achievements of this project, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to report on these achievements in more detail in its next report;
- 7. <u>Thanks</u> the other partners and donors, such as the Association Dogon Initiative (ADI), the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) and the Embassy of the United States of America in Mali for the initiatives and support provided for the safeguarding of the property, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to continue these efforts to mobilise resources for initiatives to safeguard the property;
- 8. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the establishment of a steering committee within the framework of the ALIPH project, acting as the multidisciplinary working group previously requested by Decision **44 COM 7B.72**, but <u>also asks</u> the State Party to clarify the future of this committee beyond the end of the project supported by ALIPH in 2025 and to specify more precisely its multidisciplinary composition and its operation covering all its actions;
- 9. Recalling that the property is also inscribed on the basis of its natural attributes relating to criterion (vii), regrets, however, that the State Party has not provided relevant information allowing for a better analysis of the state of conservation of the natural values of the property and the impact of the security situation on these values, and urges the State Party to submit a more general report informing on all aspects related to the conservation, management, as well as governance of the property, including the capacities available both at the level of the Cultural Mission of Bandiagara, as well as at the level of the capital, relating notably to the natural values;
- 10. <u>Takes note</u> of the granting of international assistance for the updating of the Conservation and Management Plan for the property, following the expiry of the previous Plan in 2022,

- and <u>furthermore requests</u> the State Party to submit the draft updated Conservation and Management Plan, including measures for the preservation of the cultural and natural values of the property, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 11. <u>Reiterates its appeal</u> to the international community and to technical and financial partners to support the implementation of recommendations and projects aimed at safeguarding the property, particularly in the context of preparations for "Sigi" in 2027;
- 12. <u>Also reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to invite, as soon as security circumstances permit, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property to examine the state of conservation of the cultural and natural heritage, and the overall management of the property in the context of the current security crisis;
- 13. <u>Finally Requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, the implementation of the above, and on the measures taken to guarantee the security of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.
- 60. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania)

ARAB STATES

61. The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (Iraq)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

62. Wadi Rum Protected Area (Jordan)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(v)(vii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing
- · Lack of a database on cultural heritage
- Lack of proper conservation and maintenance of the archaeological sites
- Lack of traffic and visitor management plans
- Potential encroachment from development in the village of Rum
- · Lack of trained staff and financial resources for the management of the property
- Governance
- Human resources
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management systems/ management plan
- Solid waste

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/documents/ and reports the following:

 The 'Wadi Rum Conservation and Development Program' has been launched as a strategic and comprehensive response programme to enhance management effectiveness, with a 15 million Jordanian Dinars (~USD 20 million) budget over 3-5 years;

- A new buffer zone regulation has been developed, increasing the area by over 200% (to 134,130 ha) and providing regulations for activities. Final approval and submission to UNESCO are planned for early 2025, including a Minor Boundary Modification (MBM);
- In 2024, an assessment of tourism impacts was undertaken using the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (Guidance and Toolkit), which established a 2024 baseline to control the expansion of camps and off-road tracks. Measures include strict regulations on desert camps (categorized by size and impact) and road expansions. The report is under review and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2025 for review, after which it will undergo official approval and adoption of a response plan;
- In parallel, the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) 2025-2030 was updated in collaboration with international and local experts, addressing conservation strategies, zoning, tourism management, and climate adaptation. Final approval is anticipated by mid-2025;
- The three pilot project sanitation units are operational. Further evaluations and feasibility studies are planned for 2025 to upscale solutions;
- Comprehensive integrated GIS for the property was developed, including over 150 updated maps to integrate cultural, natural, and socio-economic data for management and monitoring purposes;
- Community empowerment initiatives focus on engaging local communities, especially women and youth, in sustainable tourism and conservation efforts;
- Four development projects intersect with the property and/or its buffer zone requiring thorough impact assessments: (i) a national railway project planned to cross the buffer zone with mitigation measures under development; (ii) a fibre optics project undergoing re-evaluation due to potential cultural and environmental impacts; (iii) 'Rum Gate' project to improve visitor regulation and minimise unauthorised access and (iv) USAID supported Aqaba-Disi Water Pipeline project for which an impact assessment is in progress.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

It is positive that the State Party is reporting progress on a number of Committee requests that had been delayed due to COVID-19-related constraints, such as the buffer zone regulations, assessment of tourism impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and the update of the IMP for the property.

The development of a new buffer zone regulation, which more than doubles the area of the buffer zone and provides regulations for allowable activities and processes within the area, is positive. Noting that final approval is anticipated in 2025, it is recommended that the regulation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once approved and that a MBM be submitted in line with the Operational Guidelines.

Recalling that the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission recommended a Heritage and Environmental Impact Assessment (HEIA) of tourism impacts on the OUV of the property which has subsequently been requested by the Committee, it is positive that a comprehensive assessment of tourism has now been completed and will inform the development of an action plan. It is noted that the annexed summary outlines that various cultural and natural values have been considered and proposes mitigation measures, with further details to be provided in the final report once submitted. Recalling also the mission recommendation that the impact assessment should inform the development of a tourism management strategy for the property, it is positive that the updated IMP is reported to include a strong focus on tourism. However, noting also that the tourism assessment and IMP update were undertaken in parallel in 2024, it is recommended that the State Party also ensure that the findings of the tourism assessment inform the finalization of the revisions to the IMP in relation to strategic tourism management priorities for the property, and to submit the IMP to the World Heritage Centre once finalised.

It is noted that the three sanitation pilot projects remain operational and are showing promising results. The planned technical evaluation of the pilot phase of improved water sanitation in human settlements and a full feasibility study of upscaling water sanitation, which should include a strategic consideration of potential further installations in other areas of the property, will help to inform future waste management priorities moving forward, and should be further encouraged.

The reported progress in developing an integrated GIS heritage database with more than 150 updated maps developed to integrate cultural, natural, and socio-economic data for management and monitoring purposes, is noted with appreciation.

Appreciating that an overview and maps are provided for the four proposed development projects, it is positive that the impacts of each project on the OUV will be assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit. For the railway line, it will be important that the impact assessment process clearly considers the impact of the proposed route crossing 30km of the buffer zone and in close proximity (500m) to the property. For the fibreoptics cable to provide internet to Wadi Rum, it is noted that the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) has not accepted the initial impact assessment and, stating the project is "potentially of very high concern in regard to impacts on both cultural and natural values of the World Heritage Property", is commissioning a full assessment in line with the Guidance and Toolkit. For 'Rum Gate', it is noted that this is currently in design phase and would be constructed on the existing road as part of management measures to address visitation to the property, that the ASEZA screening process considered a full impact assessment would not be required, but that a rapid impact assessment using the Guidance and Toolkit will be undertaken. For the Aqaba-Disi Drinking Water pipeline Project, noting that this intends to improve water supply to Aqaba city (west of property) by supplying from Disi (east of property) and would cross the buffer zone and follow the property border, it remains important that potential impacts are fully assessed, as planned.

The number of impact assessments being carried out merit reflection on how World Heritage considerations might be better integrated into the management framework, for example, by defining thresholds of acceptable change, and by examining existing screening processes and when additional triggers might be needed to ensure an impact assessment takes place in order to safeguard the World Heritage property. Similarly, in light of the various proposed projects, it would be useful to reflect on how best to ensure the effective implementation of the updated buffer zone regulations and if any other mechanisms are needed to ensure that plans for both smaller-scale tourism projects and more ambitious infrastructure projects fully take into consideration OUV. The State Party is also encouraged to consider the cumulative impacts of multiple projects on the Wadi Rum landscape. These issues could be effectively addressed in the IMP in order to identify any potential further steps that could be taken to further improve the planning processes affecting the property.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.62

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision **45 COM 7B.102**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the development of a new buffer zone regulation, which increases the area by over 200% (to 134,130 ha) and provides regulations for activities in the buffer zone, and <u>takes note</u> that the State Party will prepare and submit to the World Heritage Centre a Minor Boundary Modification proposal in 2025;
- 4. <u>Also notes with appreciation</u> the report that an impact assessment of tourism development on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has been completed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that the summary outlines the consideration of various potential impacts and proposes mitigation measures, and <u>also requests</u> the State Party to submit the final report to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 5. <u>Further notes with appreciation</u> the progress made in updating the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property in 2024 and, noting that this process was undertaken in parallel to the assessment of tourism impacts on the OUV of the property, <u>encourages</u> the State Party to ensure that the findings of the tourism assessment also inform the finalization of the update and implementation of the IMP in relation to tourism management priorities, and to submit the final IMP to the World Heritage Centre once completed;

- 6. <u>Also takes notes</u> that the three pilot sanitation units are operational and showing promising results, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to finalise the planned technical evaluation of the pilot phase of improved water sanitation in human settlements and full feasibility study of upscaling water sanitation in order to inform further waste management priorities for the property;
- 7. <u>Further notes with appreciation</u> the reported progress in developing an integrated geographic information system (GIS) database, including more than 150 updated maps to integrate cultural, natural, and socio-economic data for the monitoring and management of the property;
- 8. <u>Further takes note</u> of the four proposed development projects that would be located either within the property or its buffer zone, including a national railway project (crossing 30km of buffer zone), a fibre optics project (within property), 'Rum Gate' to manage visitation to the property (on existing road in buffer zone along property boundary), and Aqaba-Disi Water Pipeline (in buffer zone and along property boundary), and <u>further requests</u> that the potential impacts of each project on the OUV of the property are thoroughly assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, as stated, that the assessments are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, and that the potential cumulative impact of various proposed projects be considered through the IMP as part of the broader strategic planning processes for the property;
- 9. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

63. Angkor (Cambodia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

64. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

65. Historic Centre of Macao (China)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

67. Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tianshan Corridor (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

68. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2006

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2001-2003)
Total amount approved: USD 92,370

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 25,000 EUR under the France-UNESCO Co-operation Agreement for expert missions (2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2011)

Previous monitoring missions

2000: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; 2001: expert technical assessment mission; 2003 and 2004: World Heritage Centre and expert Advisory missions; August 2005: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; February 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2009: UNESCO New Delhi Office technical mission to the property

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of an operational site management plan (issue resolved)
- Remains of a collapsed bridge (issue resolved)
- Effects arising from the use of transportation infrastructure (Lack of traffic regulations limiting heavy duty vehicular traffic)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Construction project for two cable-suspended bridges in the property; Construction project for the road widening near the ancient Kamalapur tank; Proposed bypass to divert heavy traffic from the property)
- Commercial development (Demolition works in the Hampi bazaar near Virupaksha temple)
- Water (extraction) (Irrigation for water intensive agriculture)
- Housing
- Buildings and Development (Tourism projects and development of a new township to accommodate pilgrims)

<u>Illustrative material</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/241/documents/ and presents the responses regarding various issues as follows:

- The State Party has submitted, via its state of conservation report, the final Integrated Management Plan (IMP), which was planned for operationalization in the year 2020;
- The revision of the "Hampi Master Plan 2021" is in progress and Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority (HWHAMA) has issued a notification under Section 10(1) of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961, seeking public suggestions regarding the revision of the Master Plan for the Hampi Local Planning Area. A committee has been constituted to assist HWHAMA in the Master Plan revision work;
- Regarding tourism development at Anjanadri Hill, the report indicates that the tourism
 infrastructure development is still in the proposed state and has not commenced. The proposed
 development is only limited to government land for basic visitor amenities and development is
 allowed only in the buffer zone, following zonal regulations of the existing Master Plan;
- A detailed report on the conservation of Historic Mantapas near Virupaksha Temple is submitted;
- The proposed road widening work between Kamalapura and Hosapete was taken up in the year 2011-2012. However, due to the negative impact it will have on the ancient bund of Kamalapura Tank, the proposed road widening has not been undertaken and strengthening of the existing road by doing shoulder development is only undertaken without widening the carriageway of the road in the property and buffer zone;
- The HWHAMA has informed that the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for tourism infrastructure development and road widening projects in Anjanadri has been initiated by the State Government of Karnataka.

On 13 February 2025, the World Heritage Centre requested information from the State Party, in the framework of Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines, following third-party reports of the potential several large scale proposed development projects, including tourism infrastructure up to 600 rooms hotels, as well as encroaching urbanization in Anjanadri Hill in Anegundi, within the buffer zone and in the vicinity of the property. At the time of writing this report, the State Party is yet to respond to this request.

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

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies noted that the IMP, requested repeatedly by the Committee since 2006, was finally submitted this year. This IMP is being reviewed by ICOMOS. It is regrettable that both the IMP and the Master Plan have taken an inordinate amount of time to progress. Although finally submitted, the status of implementation of this IMP remains unclear. Similarly, the Master Plan, requested in 2006 and reiterated in subsequent years (31 COM 7B.81 in 2007, 33 COM 7B.71 in 2009, and 43 COM 7B.61 in 2019), is yet to be revised. This prolonged delay has resulted not only in repeated requests from the Committee for updates, but also raises significant concerns about the overall management of this irreplaceable World Heritage property.

Various third-party reports received by the World Heritage Centre indicate major conservation, renovation, refurbishment and redevelopment works along with infrastructure development activities that may pose a threat to several component parts, and these prompted the World Heritage Centre to send the letter dated 13 February 2025 to the State Party expressing concerns in accordance with Paragraph 174 of the Operational Guidelines.

According to third-party reports, various major tourism projects have been planned around Anjanadri Hill, including the development of a new township to accommodate pilgrims. This township, which would be within the buffer zone and in the vicinity of the property, will feature 600 accommodations for pilgrims, 200 rooms for staff, a laser show, an aqua laser show, a police station, and other facilities. This proposed development could threaten to urbanize the ancient, pristine landscape setting of Hampi, which might impact negatively the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Furthermore, it raises serious environmental concerns, as the increased pollution from waste generated by the new accommodations and facilities could threaten the Tungabhadra River.

There is also an Anjanadri Hill tourism proposal mentioned in the State Party report to construct three ropeways to replace steps to a shrine and other visitor services within the buffer zone. The HIA for these tourist amenities has been initiated, as indicated by the State Party report, however, third-party reports indicate that this HIA process is halted. Although the State Party indicates that development is only allowed in the buffer zone, such development can impact adversely the OUV. The planned ropeway at Anjanadri Hill raises concerns about visual as well as environmental impacts.

Moreover, a road widening scheme has been proposed, passing through the property near Sanapur and Anequndi villages.

The absence of an updated Master Plan leads to an uncontrolled and ad hoc tourism infrastructure development, potentially negatively impacting property's OUV. It is regrettable that the State Party has not provided the requested information at the time of writing this report. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to urgently provide detailed information about these proposed developments, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider in order to ensure the effective protection of property's OUV, it is crucial to expedite the Master Plan revision process in order to establish clear parameters to control development in the property, its buffer zone and in the vicinity of the property as well as implementation mechanisms. Though the property is named as a group of monuments, Hampi is a living landscape encompassing 29 villages within its World Heritage boundary, it is crucial that the local community, who are an integral part of this property, are able to ensure a decent livelihoods. Therefore, the Master Plan should incorporate opportunities for local community livelihoods, such as homestays, within a tourism infrastructure development plan in order to facilitate the establishment of a sustainable and responsible tourism that benefits the community, and is aligned with the principles of sustainable tourism and World Heritage conservation. In the same way, the Master Plan should include a mobility plan including a solution for a crowd management and identify a parking slot away from the current one which is directly in front of the Virukpaksha Temple which receives on average 20,000 pilgrims per day. Additionally, currently, small-scale accommodations like bed and breakfast establishments are sprouting up rapidly around Hampi, often without regard for the site's historical context. The design and height restrictions of buildings on the hill as well as human settlements within the site like Kadirampur and nearby towns in the buffer zone should have a proper urban design and guideline of urban regulations. The bylaws and building guidelines are necessary for all types of development to preserve the traditional architectural settings of the World Heritage property, ensuring that any new infrastructure respects the property's historical integrity.

The detailed report on the conservation of historic mandapas near Virupaksha Temple is appreciated. The State Party may further provide an implementation timeline for the proposed conservation strategies, along with an update on the status of any ongoing work.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider, in light of the critical concerns like the absence of an updated Master Plan and potential mass tourism infrastructure development, that the Committee should request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the state of conservation of the property, evaluate progress with implementation of the Committee's previous decisions, consider the potential impact of current and proposed tourism, infrastructure and other development projects on attributes that support the property's OUV.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.68

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- Recalling Decision 37 COM 7B.61, 39 COM 7B.64, 41 COM 7B.90, 43 COM 7B.61 and 45 COM 7B.157, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Notes</u> that the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), requested repeatedly by the Committee, was finally submitted, <u>regrets</u> that the IMP was not submitted and implemented on time and <u>urges</u> the State Party to provide the information of the current status and the implementation timeline of this IMP and, if required, to review and update the IMP to address evolving development pressures, increasing tourism, and potential climate change impacts;
- 4. Regrets that the Master Plan is still not updated and urges the State Party to expedite the Master Plan revision process, providing a timeline and establishing clear implementation mechanisms; and to ensure that the Plan addresses tourism development and infrastructure, design and height restrictions of buildings, guidelines for urban design and bylaws and comprehensive building bylaws and architectural guidelines for the property, its buffer zone and in the vicinity of the property;
- 5. Requests the State Party to provide an update on:
 - a) The proposed township near Anjanadri Hill, including the construction of 600 accommodations for pilgrims and other facilities and <u>submit</u> the proposed projects details together with an Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report to the World Heritage Centre, to be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies,
 - b) The proposed ropeways and visitor facilities at Anjanadri Hill, and to clarify the status of the HIA.
 - c) The proposed road widening scheme passing through the property near Sanapur and Anegundi villages and whether an HIA is being undertaken,
 - d) The implementation of the proposed conservation strategies for historic mandapas near Virupaksha Temple;
- 6. Urges the State Party to:
 - Establish a crowd management and mobility plan to deal with a great number of visitors of the Virukpaksha Temple, which includes a relocation of the current parking,

b) Submit to the World Heritage Centre details of the tourism infrastructure projects and any other major projects, including HIAs, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,

and <u>requests</u> the State Party to put on hold the implementation of these projects pending completion of this review process;

- 7. <u>Underlines</u> the importance of supporting livelihood of local communities (29 villages) which lie within the property, <u>requests</u> the state Party to establish opportunities, such as homestays, for local community livelihoods, within tourism infrastructure development plan under the authorities of Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority or the Government of Karnataka;
- 8. <u>Also requests</u> the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, at its earliest convenience, to assess the state of conservation of the property, evaluate progress with implementation of the Committee's previous decisions, consider the potential impact of current and proposed tourism, infrastructure and other development projects on attributes that support the property's OUV:
- 9. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

80. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao PDR)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

81. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao PDR)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

84. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

85. Baroque Churches of the Philippines (Philippines)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
88. Silk Roads: Zarafshan-Karakum Corridor (Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
90. Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
91. Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
92. Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long - Hanoi (Viet Nam)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (Republic of Korea)

86.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

93. Butrint (Albania)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

94. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

95. The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, Switzerland)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

97. The Great Spa Towns of Europe (Austria, Belgium, Czechia, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (ii)(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

<u>Previous Committee Decisions</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1613/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1613/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- need to adjust boundaries/extend buffer zones of some components
- review/implement management plans
- · management systems
- legal framework

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1613/

Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2024, the seven States Parties submitted a joint state of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1613/documents/. Progress on a number of conservation issues raised by the Committee at the time of inscription and in its Decision 45 COM 7B.177 is presented in this report, as follows:

- Minor boundary modifications for the components Baden bei Wien, Montecatini Terme, Karlovy Vary and Vichy were approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session (Decision 46 COM 8B.36);
- Comprehensive legal frameworks have been implemented or reinforced in Baden bei Wien, Montecatini Terme, Spa, Bad Ems, and Bad Kissingen;
- A series of workshops in 2023-2024 has led to the development and implementation of a transnational, joint monitoring system and an integrated monitoring and impact assessment framework in line with the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), including an early warning system to establish monitoring procedures for cumulative impacts on the property as a whole;
- The plans for the Gasworks redevelopment near Bath were amended following ICOMOS recommendations and the revised project was approved by the Bath & North East Somerset Council Planning Committee in June 2024. The documentation for the Bath Rugby Stadium development was submitted for review in September 2023. Its amendments, based on ICOMOS recommendations, were submitted for a second review in October 2024:
- The City of Bath has developed a draft combined Management Plan, integrating both World Heritage properties.

On 29 November 2024, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the State Party of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), outlining plans for the redevelopment of an area of the Bath Western Riverside, about which Historic England expressed concern and referred to the recommendations of previous ICOMOS Technical Reviews for similar developments in its advice to the local planning authority.

A further letter from the State Party of the UK was received by the World Heritage Centre on 16 December 2024 submitting for comments, if any, the draft combined Management Plan for the World Heritage property 'City of Bath' and the Bath component as part of the 'Great Spa Towns of Europe' (GSTE) World Heritage property.

On 28 February 2025, the State Party of the UK reported that the revised Bath Rugby Stadium scheme had been formally submitted to the Bath & North East Somerset Council, but that further revisions were expected following the ICOMOS Technical Review transmitted to the State Party in January 2025. In addition, the 2025 ICOMOS Technical Review of the draft combined Management Plan for the 'City of Bath' and the Bath component of the GSTE properties was shared with both World Heritage Site Coordinators. The Plan would be revised and was planned to be submitted to the local authority for endorsement in May 2025.

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

The States Parties have made further progress in implementing the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee. Following the Minor Boundary Modifications for Baden bei Wien, Montecatini Terme, Karlovy Vary and Vichy, approved by Decision **46 COM 8B.36**, only two small areas on the western boundaries of the Montecatini Terme have not yet been included into the conservation area of the component as recommended. The State Party of Italy, in this respect, should be encouraged to extend the same level of protection to these remaining areas as well, in order to safeguard street morphologies and ensure visual connections to and from this component.

It is welcomed that the State Party of Austria has amended its Federal Monuments Protection Act to include and legally protect World Heritage, as well as the municipal building regulations of Baden bei Wien, which declares Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as a primary objective of protection. While the State Party of Belgium introduced a number of new legal instruments to strengthen the protection of World Heritage, a decision was also made to extend the 'Zone de protection urbaine' (ZPU). The States Parties of Italy and Germany have reviewed and confirmed existing legislation covering the entirety of their respective components with a view to slightly strengthening the Bad Kissingen component. Detailed maps have been provided for each of the property components. Despite this progress, the States Parties

need to be further encouraged to find ways to ensure that the areas of the components of the property all have the highest level of legal protection as a single unit, and that their buffer zones also have the necessary level of protection to fulfil their purpose of providing an additional layer of protection to the property.

The implementation of further workshops and capacity building in 2023-2024, together with the GSTE Secretariat and all site managers, is welcomed, as are its resulting outcomes in the form of the development of a transnational monitoring and integrated impact assessment system, as recommended in Decision 45 COM 7B.177. This transnational system is reported to be aligned with the principles of the 2011 HUL Recommendation and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and includes a proactive early warning protocol that will allow for the initiation of mitigation measures for cumulative impacts on both the property and component levels. The States Parties should be encouraged to continue its full implementation and to keep initiating workshops on impact assessments as planned for 2025, to further strengthen these systems.

The Gasworks development near the Bath component and the World Heritage property 'City of Bath' was amended following ICOMOS' advice to address the issues raised. After ICOMOS identified adverse impacts of the proposed Bath Rugby Stadium on the OUV of both properties, the planning application was suspended, and an amended proposal was submitted by the State Party for a second review and, after formal submission to the planning authority, a third review in April 2025. Given the regulatory constraints for new stadiums, the recommendation to further reduce the roof height could not be accommodated, and ICOMOS has therefore raised no further concerns regarding the revised proposal. Additional development pressure remains from a new project at the Bath Western Riverside, notified in November 2024 under Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for which Historic England expressed concern about potential impacts on the OUV of both properties. While the State Party noted the recommendations of previous ICOMOS Technical Reviews for similar developments, it should be reminded to avoid approving proposals that could adversely impact the OUV of the properties.

As requested at the time of inscription, the State Party of the UK has submitted a draft combined Management Plan for the World Heritage property 'City of Bath' and the Bath component as part of the GSTE. The priorities of the draft Plan, which accommodates change rather than enhancing the conservation of the two World Heritage properties, are of concern and the State Party is invited to provide a clearer articulation and mapping of the attributes that convey the properties' OUV to ensure their long-term conservation.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.97

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **44 COM 8B.16**, **45 COM 7B.177** and **46 COM 8B.36** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Commends</u> the States Parties on the progress made in responding to its requests and recommendations since the property's inscription;
- 4. <u>Reiterates its recommendation</u> that the State Party of Italy consider extending the conservation area in Montecatini Terme (Italy) to comprise the remaining areas of this component part that are still not covered by it;
- 5. <u>Takes note</u> of the confirmation of the legal protection for Montecatini Terme (Italy), Bad Ems (Germany) and Bad Kissingen (Germany), <u>welcomes</u> the improvements made for the components of Baden bei Wien (Austria) and Spa (Belgium), but nevertheless, <u>encourages</u> the States Parties to find ways to ensure that the areas of the components of the property all have the highest level of legal protection as a single unit, and that their buffer zones also have the necessary level of protection to fulfil their purpose of providing an addition layer of protection to the property;

- 6. <u>Also encourages</u> the States Parties to continue their efforts to implement the monitoring and integrated impact assessment systems through future workshops and to review their effectiveness to strengthen the already improved systems;
- 7. <u>Welcomes</u> that the proposal for redevelopment of the Bath Gasworks has been amended in accordance with ICOMOS recommendations, <u>notes</u> that, given the regulatory constraints for new stadiums, the recommendation to further reduce the roof height of the proposed Bath Rugby Stadium could not be accommodated, <u>requests</u> the State Party of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) to continue informing the World Heritage Centre on development pressures affecting the Bath (UK) component of the property, especially with regard to the Bath Western Riverside project, and <u>requests furthermore</u> the State Party of the UK to avoid any proposals that could adversely impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- 8. <u>Acknowledges</u> the submission of the draft combined Management Plan for the 'City of Bath' World Heritage property and the Bath (UK) component of 'The Great Spa Towns of Europe' property, <u>notes</u> ICOMOS' concerns regarding the priorities of the draft Plan and <u>further requests</u> the State Party of the UK to revise and resubmit the Plan in accordance with the recommendations of the 2025 ICOMOS Technical Review, prior to its adoption:
- 9. <u>Finally requests</u> the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.
- 98. Cultural Landscape of Khinalig People and "Köç Yolu" Transhumance Route (Azerbaijan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

99. Historic centre of Sheki with the Khan's Palace (Azerbaijan)

100. Funerary and memory sites of the First World War (Western Front) (Belgium, France)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1567/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1567/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Legal framework
- Management systems/management plan

<u>Illustrative material</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1567

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the States Parties submitted a joint State of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1567/documents/, and which reports progress on a number of conservation issues raised by the Committee at the time of inscription, as follows:

- The legal protection of the component parts in Belgium has been completed and is progressing
 in France, with 59 component parts already legally protected as historic monuments or sites and
 a further 37 in the process of designation as historic monuments, sites or other forms of
 protection;
- The changes to the boundaries of some component parts and of some buffer zones requested at the time of inscription have been completed and the updated cartography has either been submitted or is about to be submitted:
- In France, a 'Mission Patrimoine de la Première Guerre mondiale' was to be set up in February 2025 to coordinate management efforts among all relevant stakeholders. The creation of this mission will be accompanied by the adoption of a framework management agreement and statutes, which will outline the main commitments to protect and preserve the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV); the mission will oversee the development of a joint Management Plan, secure the necessary resources and promote collaborative actions with Belgium and all States Parties that participated in the First World War (WWI) on the Western Front, ensuring that the presentation of the history and memory of the property conveys a message of peace;
- A transnational management committee meets monthly, and actors responsible for component parts are invited to participate in their respective national and regional committees;
- The updating of the transnational Management Plan and the regional Management Plans will pay particular attention to strengthening international cooperation between the countries and managers concerned;
- The intention to develop a common transnational strategy for the interpretation of the OUV of the serial property is linked to the updating of the transnational Management Plan. The requested strategy will integrate narratives about the tribute paid during WWI by the nations formerly

- colonised by European countries;
- The adoption of the Statement of OUV should allow the attributes of the property to be established and then monitored on a regular basis;
- In Belgium, the Flemish regulation on windfarms has been revised to include a temporary exclusion zone of 3km around the component parts and a mandatory Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for all windfarm proposals in the Westhoek region. A study on the feasibility and compatibility of windfarms in the region is underway and is expected to be completed by summer 2025. In France, although no exclusion zone is currently in place, vigilance is maintained due to past and current windfarm projects proposed in the vicinity of component parts. Two project proposals have already been rejected;
- The States Parties report several restoration and construction projects that they consider having no impact on the OUV of the property.

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

The States Parties have addressed most of the Committee's recommendations and have already implemented some of them. The progress made in the legal protection of component parts is noted and further efforts should be encouraged in France. To ensure steady progress in the strengthening of protection, the Committee should request the State Party of France to specify the protection status it intends to grant to the 29 of the 37 component parts still awaiting protection reinforcement, and to prepare an implementation calendar for the finalisation of protection designations.

The completion of the requested adjustment of the boundaries and buffer zones of several components is welcome. All updated maps should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre without delay, preferably with the associated GIS data. The establishment in February 2025 of the specific 'Mission Patrimoine de la Première Guerre mondiale' in France is also noted, along with its important commitments and mandate. The common approach to conservation, management and valorisation requested by the Committee should become a foundational principle of the updated overarching transnational management framework/plan and also guide the maintenance approach to be applied across the component parts, both in Belgium and France, and serve as one of the pillars for strengthened coordination and cooperation. In this regard, the Committee may wish to reiterate its recommendations and request that operational guidance be developed and integrated into the specific mechanisms and documents established by the different management entities responsible for the component parts.

The intention to define the attributes of the property is welcome. The Statement of OUV should form the basis for the detailed identification of these attributes, which in turn shall underpin a common and agreed transnational strategy for interpreting and presenting the property's OUV, which should be developed as a matter of priority. An updated transnational Management Plan is an indispensable overarching framework for all other instruments and mechanisms for the management of the property and its update is necessary to fulfil all the recommendations of the Committee.

Steps to strengthen the regulatory framework and decision-making processes for windfarms construction are also welcome. The establishment of permanent exclusion zones around all components should be encouraged. In this respect, the specific study underway in Flanders (Belgium) should also be developed in Wallonia (Belgium) and in France, as the pressure from wind farm development is not negligible in the regions where the component parts are located.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.100

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 8B.52, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the progress made by the States Parties in responding to the recommendations of the Committee adopted at the time of inscription of the property, but notes that some remain to be implemented;

- 4. <u>Also notes</u> the significant progress made by the State Party of Belgium in reinforcing the legal protection of component parts, and <u>requests</u> the State Party of France to continue these efforts and to provide further details on the planned protection status for 29 of the 37 component parts still awaiting protection reinforcement, as well as to prepare and submit to the World Heritage Centre an implementation calendar for the finalisation of protective designations;
- 5. <u>Also welcomes</u> the completion of the requested adjustments to the boundaries and buffer zones of several components and <u>also requests</u> the State Party of France to transmit the updated maps to the World Heritage Centre without delay, preferably with the associated GIS data:
- 6. <u>Further welcomes</u> the establishment of the 'Mission Patrimoine de la Première Guerre mondiale' for the coordinated management of the component parts in France and <u>invites</u> the State Party of France to provide a copy of the signed framework agreement and the associated status of the Mission to the World Heritage Centre;
- 7. Reiterates its recommendation to strengthen transnational coordination in management through the adoption of a common conservation and management approach for the property, and <u>further requests</u> the States Parties to develop operational guidance outlining the overarching maintenance, conservation and management instruments and mechanisms in use by the managing entities of the component parts;
- 8. <u>Strongly encourages</u> the States Parties to proceed with updating the transnational Management Plan as the overarching framework for all interventions and activities in the property;
- 9. <u>Also reiterates its recommendation</u> to develop, as a matter of priority, a common transnational strategy for interpretation, based on the attributes conveying the property's Outstanding Universal Value, which need be identified in detail;
- 10. <u>Welcomes furthermore</u> the reinforced protection measures adopted by Flanders (Belgium) to prevent negative impacts from windfarm developments around the components, as well as the ongoing study to assess the feasibility and compatibility of further wind energy use in the Westhoek region, and <u>recommends</u> that a similar study be undertaken in France and Wallonia (Belgium) to counteract the pressure from wind farm developments and to strengthen the relevant measures;
- 11. <u>Finally requests</u> the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

101. Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

102. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

103. Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar (Croatia, Italy, Montenegro)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

104. Historic Centre of Prague (Czechia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

105. Paris, Banks of the Seine (France)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

108. Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt (Germany)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

<u>Previous Committee Decisions</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1614/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1614/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1614/

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1614/documents/. The report shows progress in implementing the recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription and in Decision 45 COM 7B.55, as follows:

- The tools developed for the management of the property during the time of the preparation of the nomination dossier have been consolidated and developed into a Conservation Management Plan that provides a framework for all public or private buildings within the property through a unified and coherent conservation approach and strategy;
- The link between the private owners (of eight buildings within the property) and the conservation services has been strengthened, with a focus on providing professional conservation advice and financial assistance, as well as tax refund options supporting the conservation of listed buildings;
- Funding efforts are reported to prioritise conservation and restoration activities, and substantial financial support has been provided for restoration projects since the inscription of the property (for both privately and publicly owned buildings). Of the eight development projects listed in the Master Plan, only the project for the Visitor Centre in the buffer zone is still being pursued;
- Over the past three years, the history of the restoration effort has been incorporated into outreach
 activities such as publications, exhibitions and guided tours as part of the ongoing restoration
 work;
- Building Plan O32 has been amended to update the section relevant for the eastern slope area of the property, allowing the relocation of the planned visitor centre in the buffer zone. This area is now reserved for cultural use, thereby excluding residential development in the future, and setting maximum allowed building hights. Its revised version will come into force through the resolution by the city council, foreseen in spring 2025. The plans to relocate the Visitor Centre in the buffer zone of the property were submitted to the World Heritage Centre in December 2023, and an ICOMOS Technical Review with comments and recommendations was provided to the State Party in April 2024;
- In its report, the State Party provides additional information and visualisation of the plans for the new Visitor Centre and indicates that the three-storey design should be retained as it does not have an adverse impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- Parking and traffic management in and around the property are reported to have been improved.

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

The State Party has made significant and commendable progress in implementing the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee. A Conservation Management Plan has been developed that defines the structure of the property's management and serves as a common framework for all stakeholders to ensure its sustainable conservation. The reported progress in fostering cooperation with private owners and securing both the necessary expertise and direct and indirect financial support for conservation efforts is noted. This partnership seems crucial in improving the long-term conservation of the site. The increased staffing to ensure expert oversight of the management of the site, and the prioritisation of conservation over development in the allocation of funds, with a significant increase in the budget allocated to this objective is welcome, as well as the reported restoration projects on both public and privately owned buildings, supported by a consistent annual budget from the municipality to maintain ongoing conservation efforts. The significant reduction of the proposed projects around the site is also noted, with the Visitor Centre being the only remaining active project.

The comprehensive approach, reflected by the enhanced interpretation and presentation of the different buildings within the property through the production of several publications and the organisation of exhibitions that incorporate the findings of recent restoration projects and surveys, as well as the efforts for public engagement and education, underlines the State Party's commitment to balancing conservation with public access and cultural dissemination, ensuring that the site's heritage is both preserved and meaningfully communicated to visitors. The State Party should also be commended for its efforts to reduce and optimise vehicular traffic within and around the property and to enhance its traffic management in general.

The amended Building Plan O32, allowing the proposed Visitor Centre to be relocated to the buffer zone, is also noted. The footprint of the redesigned Visitor Centre, now planned in the buffer zone, has been reduced from around 900m² to 400m², planned with three-floors, a height that is only 1.5m lower than the historic Studio Building, which will be in direct visual contact with the visitor centre, and its design should be respected by it. The ICOMOS Technical Review of April 2024 on the submitted plans considered the revised proposal to be a significant improvement and that the Visitor Centre in its new form and design would not, in general, dramatically visually affect the integrity of the main attributes, underlying the property's OUV. However, the increase in height of the revised building by 4m compared to the proposal in 2021 was considered to have a potential negative impact on the OUV of the property. Hence, ICOMOS proposed the removal of one floor of the building and to compensate the loss of surface by developing the project along the eastern slope and providing indication of estimated construction volumes and height parameters for additional cultural uses of this territory. It is regrettable that this recommendation was not followed, as a lower Visitor Centre would have blended better in the immediate setting of the property with no negative visual impacts on its OUV. The Committee, therefore, may wish to encourage the State Party to ensure that further detailing of design of the building in choice of materials, finishing and colours is aimed to further reduce the perception of the height of its third floor.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.108

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **44 COM 8B.18** and **45 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyad, 2023) sessions, respectively,
- 3. <u>Welcomes with satisfaction</u> the significant progress made by the State Party in implementing all of its previous recommendations and requests, in particular the development of a Conservation Management Plan for the property, the enhancement of site management by reinforcing links with stakeholders, securing direct and indirect financial support for the long-term preservation of the property, strengthening conservation efforts in relation to new developments, and improving interpretation and awareness-raising in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- 4. <u>Commends</u> the State Party for its efforts to reduce and optimise traffic within and around the property and to enhance its traffic management in general;
- 5. <u>Notes with satisfaction</u> the efforts of the State Party to amend the Building Plan O32 to allow the relocation of the planned Visitor Centre from the property to the buffer zone area, and the revisions to the plan that provide improvements for the preservation of the OUV of the property;
- 6. <u>Notes</u> the further information and clarification provided regarding the revised design of the planned Visitor Centre, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to mitigate to a minimum level its potential adverse visual impact on the OUV of the property and its attributes by reducing the perceptibility of the third floor of the building when detailing its design, through the choice of materials, finishing and colours:
- 7. <u>Also encourages</u> the State Party to continue its efforts in ensuring the adequate management of the property to maintain its state of conservation in the long term;
- 8. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and information about the implementation of the planned visitor centre project.

109. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

111. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue (Hungary)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

112. The Porticoes of Bologna (Italy)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1650/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1650/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

June 2023: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / management plan
- Need to revise the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone(s)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1650/

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1650/documents/, which provides information on measures implemented in response to Decision 45 COM 7B.188. Progress on a number of conservation issues is presented in the report as follows:

- Implementation of the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory Mission, which took place from 12-16 June 2023, is underway;
- A revised Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) was approved by the Committee (Decision 46 COM 8B.30). This Statement of OUV will form the basis for the revision of the boundaries and a Minor Boundary Modification proposal is currently being developed by the State Party and is expected to be submitted in 2026. The boundary revision, based on a clear rationale, is being pursued and aims to merge closely located components, including the Garisenda tower (which was reportedly omitted from the nomination dossier in error), and extend the San Luca component;

- The components of the property are protected at different levels, and at the municipal level its protection has been further strengthened by the inclusion of its perimeters and related protective measures in the General Urban Plan (PUG) of Bologna. The PUG is reported to adopt the concepts of historic urban heritage and historic urban landscape, in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL). Bologna's building regulations regarding interventions on porticoes have recently been revised to ensure their maintenance and use:
- The Management Plan is currently being updated and is expected to be completed in 2026. The Plan will include new perimeters, new governance arrangements and risk management measures for the potential impact of climate change on the property. Bologna has recently experienced severe flooding which did not adversely affect the OUV of the property;
- With regard to developments, updates are provided on a number of previously reported projects. The new tram line system is progressing, and the restoration of *Modernissimo* Movie Theatre was finalised in 2023. The restyling of the *Dall'Ara* Stadium is still at the design stage due to a lack of funding. The renovation of the *Teatro Communale* has started, but the recommended Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is still pending. The project for the new broadcasting tower, within the current buffer zone near San Luca, is still awaiting a court decision.

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

Following the adoption of the SOUV, priority should be given to revising the boundaries of the property in response to the Committee's request at the time of inscription. The stated objectives of merging closely located components and extending the San Luca component represent progress in this direction. To support this process, the State Party should be requested to complete research into the role of the 1288 Municipal Statutes in shaping the relationship between public and private spaces in the medieval city, as a basis for reassessing the boundaries. It should also be encouraged to implement the recommendations of the 2023 Advisory mission in this process, including the establishment of a single, unifying buffer zone for the property.

Positive improvements can be noted in relation to protection and management, including the strengthening of protection measures for components through the PUG and building regulations, as well as the implementation of the HUL approach. In this regard, the State Party should ensure that the relevant procedures are fully aligned with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, so that HIAs are carried out as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities planned for implementation within or around the property. While the protection measures are being strengthened, they remain fragmented as they are provided through a complex system of legal measures issued at different governmental levels and focused on specific heritage elements. Therefore, the State Party's effort to identify, map and consolidate the detailed attribute system that conveys the OUV of the property should continue to be a basis of shared understanding of the property, its universal, national and local values, and its socio-ecological context by all stakeholders, including local communities.

The process for updating the Management Plan is noted. It should include an assessment of the vulnerability of the property to social, economic, environmental and other pressures and changes, including disasters and climate change, and should establish procedures for monitoring the state of conservation of the property, the effectiveness of the management system, and the impact of trends and proposed interventions. In addition, a defined management cycle should be established with detailed action plans (for short-, medium- and long-term actions) developed to ensure the implementation of the updated Management Plan.

Regarding planned interventions and developments, the initiative to stabilise the *Garisenda* tower, which is to become part of the property, is noted, as is the updated information on the *Modernissimo* Movie Theatre, the *Dall'Ara* Stadium, and the new tram line system. The HIA for the modernisation works and a new entrance for the *Teatro Comunale* should be able to inform the final design of these works and should be completed before irreversible decisions are taken. Regarding the proposed new broadcasting tower near San Luca, the State Party should be requested to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any relevant updates.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.112

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **44 COM 8B.41** and **45 COM 7B.188** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Commends</u> the State Party for the progress made in implementing the Committee's decision at the time of inscription, as well as the recommendations of the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to continue its efforts to achieve further progress;
- 4. <u>Notes</u> the efforts of the State Party to revise the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, with the objective to reflect the interconnections of the portico system by merging closely located components and extending the San Luca component and <u>requests</u> the State Party to continue this process by:
 - a) Implementing the recommendations of the 2023 Advisory mission,
 - b) Completing research on the role that the 1288 Municipal Statutes had in shaping the relationship between public and private spaces in the medieval city, as a basis for reassessing the boundaries,
 - c) Incorporating the functional links between the covered walkways within the perimeter of the property, in line with the adopted Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),
 - d) Establishing a single, unifying buffer zone for the property;
- 5. <u>Acknowledges</u> the progress made in strengthening protection measures for the property through the General Urban Plan, the building regulations, and through the implementation of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, and also requests the State Party to ensure that:
 - a) The relevant procedures are fully aligned with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and that therefore, heritage impact assessments are carried out as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities planned for implementation within or around the property,
 - b) The detailed attribute system that conveys the OUV of the property is developed and consolidated to further enhance its protection and to provide a basis for a shared understanding of the property, its universal, national and local values and its socio-ecological context by all stakeholders, including local communities;
- 6. <u>Welcomes</u> the initiative to update the property's Management Plan, and <u>also encourages</u> the State Party to:
 - a) Include in the process the assessment of the vulnerability of the property to social, economic, environmental and other pressures and changes, including disasters and climate change,
 - b) Establish a defined management cycle of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation,
 - c) Establish procedures to monitor the state of conservation of the property, the effectiveness of the management system and the impact of trends and proposed interventions.

- d) Develop detailed action plans with short-, medium- and long-term actions to implement the updated Management Plan;
- 7. <u>Also notes</u> the updated information on planned interventions and developments, including the initiative to stabilise the Garisenda tower, and <u>further requests</u> the State Party to:
 - a) Ensure that the Heritage Impact Assessment for the modernisation works and a new entrance to the Teatro Comunale is able to inform the final design of these works and is completed before irreversible decisions are made,
 - b) Keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any relevant updates regarding the proposed new broadcasting tower project near San Luca;
- 8. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2026** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

113. Venice and its lagoon (Italy)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

114. City of Valletta (Malta)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

115. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

116. Dutch Water Defence Lines (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

117. Auschwitz Birkenau - German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) (Poland)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

118. Gentenniai Haii in wrociaw (Poland)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
119. Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System (Poland)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
120. Historic Centre of Guimarães and Couros Zone (Portugal)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
121. Royal Building of Mafra – Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park (Tapada) (Portugal)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
122. Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga (Portugal)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
123. Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
124. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

125. Petroglyphs of Lake Onega and the White Sea (Russian Federation)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2021

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1654/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1654/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

 Management systems / management plan (centralized management system to be established, Management Plan to be approved, conservation plan and a monitoring programme to be established, Tourism Strategy and Risk Preparedness Plan to be developed)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1654/

Current conservation issues

On 21 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1654/documents/. Information provided includes:

- The legal designation for all component parts with a status of sites of federal significance and registration in the unified state register has been achieved. The Karelian Petroglyph Management Centre is finalising the preparation of materials to include specifically the petroglyphs of Lake Onega and the White Sea in the Code of Especially Valuable Cultural Heritage Sites of the Peoples of the Russian Federation. These were to be submitted to the Ministry of Culture by the end of 2024:
- 46 archaeological sites have been recorded within the Lake Onega Petroglyphs area and 35 sites have been documented in the White Sea Petroglyphs area. Cultural layers are deep. The sites date from the Neolithic to the late Middle Ages;
- The State Centre for the Management, Conservation and Study of the Petroglyphs of Karelia, was formally established by decree on 6 March 2023. Its 17 employees are tasked with key responsibilities related to the management, conservation, monitoring and research of the property. The Centre cooperates with the ICOMOS National Committee and the local community. It has concluded agreements with the Federal Service of the National Guard for the protection of the property and with seasonal caretakers for the management of the White Sea petroglyphs territory during peak tourist seasons. By 2027, the centre will be expanded to include a structural unit in the Pudozhsky district to monitor the Onega Lake petroglyphs. Land has already been secured in Karshevo for the construction of a visitor centre, funded by the federal target programme 'Development of the Republic of Karelia until 2030';
- A concept plan for the integrated development of the Onega Lake Petroglyphs archaeological complex has been developed to promote tourism, including the creation of tourism infrastructure. Key initiatives include the construction of visitor centres, improved transport access, information stands and nature trails. A Master Plan for the development of the Kem'-Belomorsk agglomeration, which includes a section on tourism development in the White Sea Petroglyphs area, is currently being approved by the local authorities;

- Planning tools have been updated to enhance the management of the petroglyphs, including an action plan to implement the Management Plan with indicators to monitor implementation, a conservation monitoring programme and outline, a conservation plan, a risk reduction plan, and a comprehensive research plan;
- Actions have focused on scientific research, monitoring of state of conservation, and education
 and outreach activities. Progress has been made on the database system and the necessary
 infrastructure to host it has been acquired; data is currently being updated.

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

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies take note of the progress made by the State Party in the implementation of Decision **45 COM 7B.199** and the information provided on the legal and regulatory framework, and welcome the establishment of the State Centre for the Management, Conservation and Study of the Petroglyphs of Karelia that has been tasked with the conservation and management of the property. With regard to the progress made on the planning tools for the property, some of which were included as Appendices to the report, they acknowledge the submission of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Management Plan and monitoring indicators, the monitoring programme, the Risk Management Plan and the comprehensive scientific research programme.

Regarding the Action Plan, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies note that the document is not accompanied by an augmented Management Plan as requested. The Action Plan contains a list of actions to achieve outlined strategic objectives, but still maintains a fluid planning approach, which means that only a few actions have a clearly defined timeframe for implementation. Indicators are mainly related to outputs. There is no information on evaluation mechanisms related to outcomes or management effectiveness, nor on how monitoring will inform subsequent management decisions. Although the State Party recognizes that additional research may be needed in some cases, the Action Plan remains somewhat vague. Key components of management, such as strategies for tourism and social and economic development, and a detailed Conservation Plan, have yet to be fully elaborated or articulated with other planning tools.

Recognizing the lack of a Conservation Plan, the Monitoring Plan is detailed. To systematise actions, factors have been identified with threats, time of occurrence, duration, range of impact, intensity and potential conservation actions. The preventive maintenance programme is still under development and will be based on the monitoring results. This programme is crucial to prevent damage and reduce the need for expensive or invasive interventions. This Plan should be integrated with a Conservation Plan and maintenance programmes to provide the basis for a unified Action Plan.

The Risk Management Plan provides for the coordination of actions of various stakeholders with agency on the property, including business entities and administrative bodies of the Pudozhsky and Belomorsky districts, supervisory and regulatory bodies authorised in the field of cultural heritage, environmental protection and public order, as well as authorities determining the policy of social and economic development of the territory, including the tourism sector. The Plan is to be updated annually, taking into account data on the status of risk factors for the property. Information is provided on potential factors that may affect the property, identifying the degree of probability and severity of the consequences. The Plan includes a series of activities aimed at preventing and/or mitigating risks arising from the identified priority hazards. Research and systematic monitoring are required to establish maintenance measures, and centralised monitoring is highlighted as a need. Similarly, the Plan recognizes the need for documentation and capacity building to ensure adequate responses in emergency situations. The Plan needs to be further developed to clarify responsibilities, costs and timeframes. It should be noted that under economic threats specific threats are mentioned, such as the high voltage hydroelectric power station and associated infrastructure (White Sea) and a road to the lighthouse at Besov Nos (Lake Onega) and a proposed gas pipeline. These and the potential impact of visitor infrastructure should be noted.

A comprehensive (interdisciplinary) scientific research programme was outlined. Its main objective is to systematise existing scientific data and to provide a comprehensive approach to research. The programme will include establishing monitoring for the property and its buffer zone, collating bibliographic and archival information, maintaining a database, and identifying baseline data for monitoring. The outcomes of the programme will be critical to the systematic monitoring of the property and its implementation should therefore be prioritized.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.125

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision **45 COM 7B.199**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023).
- 3. <u>Takes note</u> of the progress made by the State Party in relation to the legal and regulatory frameworks for the property and <u>welcomes</u> the establishment of the State Centre for the Management, Conservation and Study of the Petroglyphs of Karelia;
- 4. <u>Acknowledges</u> the submission of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Management Plan, the monitoring programme, the Risk Management Plan, and the comprehensive scientific research programme, and <u>recognizes</u> the efforts to further develop planning tools for the safeguarding of the property;
- 5. <u>Notes</u> that, notwithstanding this progress, there is still a lack of specificity in key areas of the planning and management tools, particularly in terms of timeframes for implementation, evaluation mechanisms for management effectiveness and the articulation of conservation requirements with strategies for visitors to the property and social and economic development; and <u>reiterates its request</u> for an augmented and strengthened Management Plan, including a full Conservation Plan and Visitor Strategy;
- 6. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to undertake priority research actions required to produce baseline information to refine planning tools and to establish a unified conservation, preventive maintenance and monitoring programme with clear objectives, strategies, timeframes and responsibilities, consistent with other planning tools and ensuring that it includes measurable indicators to assess progress, outcomes and management effectiveness;
- 7. <u>Further welcomes</u> the incorporation of the Risk Management Plan into the management system of the property, <u>recognizes</u> its potential in coordinating actions between different stakeholders, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to further refine the Plan by clarifying responsibilities, timeframes and costs;
- 8. <u>Recognizes furthermore</u> the importance of the 'Comprehensive (interdisciplinary) scientific research programme' and <u>recommends</u> that its implementation be prioritised, based on the implementation of the digital documentation system, as it will provide the basis for systematic monitoring and the long-term preservation of the property;
- Also requests the State Party to actively monitor developments in and around the property that may have an impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to assess these through impact assessments based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and in accordance with Paragraphs 110, 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

<u>Further requests</u> the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with details of the plans for tourism development, in particular with regard to the creation of related infrastructure, and <u>calls on</u> the State Party to systematically inform the World Heritage Centre of any major development project that may negatively impact the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

- 10. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to continue its efforts to build the necessary institutional capacity and to ensure that monitoring, research and risk management activities are integrated and that the effectiveness of these measures is regularly evaluated to inform subsequent management decisions;
- 11. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

127. Aphrodisias (Türkiye)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

128. Arslantepe Mound (Türkiye)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

129. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Türkiye)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

130. Göbekli Tepe (Türkiye)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

131. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Türkiye)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

133. Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

134. Derwent Valley Mills (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
135. Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2
136. The English Lake District (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

138 Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 2005-2024) Total amount approved: USD 145,000

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,012,810 during the period 2003-2011 under the Spanish Funds-in-Trust; USD 450,000 for the project "Support to the reinforcement of the participative management structure of the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System" (UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage - JFIT) (approved by the Donor in June 2016 and successfully concluded in 2019)

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems (some management plans still pending). (issue resolved)
- · Lack of risk preparedness and risk management plans.
- · Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA).
- Development of a more effective and sustainable monitoring system. (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party of Colombia, in its function as the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the technical secretaries of the six States Parties concerned, submitted a state of conservation report, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1459/documents/, which reported the following:

- The technical secretariats, through the Pro Tempore Secretariat of Colombia, submitted the project proposal "Improving the knowledge of conservation in the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System," for International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund, which was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session. The project includes a 12-month work plan aimed at improving the know-how of conservation of the property among indigenous peoples, local communities and technicians from the technical secretariats, in particular using the Ayllu mobile application;
- In June 2023, the Pro Tempore Secretariat was transferred from Chile to Colombia for a two-year period. The Technical Committee, comprising the six States Parties' technical secretariats, organized 15 sessions in 2023 and 15 sessions in 2024 to ensure good coordination;
- The Master Management Plan of Qhapaq Ñan Argentina (2023-2033) was completed in 2023. "Guidelines for the participatory, federal and intercultural management of the Qhapaq Ñan World Heritage Site, Andean Road System" were published by the Ministry of Culture of Argentina in 2023;

- To ensure the continuity of the tasks of the International Technical Committee, the Technical Secretariat of Argentina, responsible for the process, gave a presentation and training on the International Management System and its updating on 8 February 2024 during session No. 2 of the Qhapaq Ñan Technical Secretariats. The session reiterated the importance of the "Glossary of Concepts and Technical Terms of Management for the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System, World Heritage" (2020);
- The Technical Secretariats continue to be committed to using a common methodology to manage and monitor the components of the property, with some flexibility for the adaptation to national and local contexts. Since the update of the Management System, the States Parties have used the Permanent Monitoring Matrix as a coordination mechanism to increase the cohesion and harmonization of the management of all serial components;
- Concerning the "Kamayuq" mobile application for monitoring and assessing risks, two virtual training sessions coordinated by the Technical Secretariat of Peru were held in March and May 2024. The Ayllu mobile application is supporting the monitoring of the state of conservation of the property;
- The updated technical documents for the property's risk management are reported to have been fundamental for recording and managing risks and disasters across the site's diverse components;
- The "Plan for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Associated with Qhapaq Ñan" continues to be implemented, with various training sessions and the inclusion of guidelines for the protection and monitoring of the tangible and intangible attributes of the property in the updated Management System, together with the "Common Guidelines for the Conduct of Heritage Impact Assessments". In addition, a series of diverse educational and outreach projects, trainings and initiatives were undertaken demonstrating a strong commitment to the conservation of the property. In relation to educational activities and dissemination of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, ceremonies were held in several States Parties to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List;
- The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) related to the construction of the Chinchero Cusco International Airport was concluded in 2023 but has not been approved and includes for consideration an Action Plan of mitigation measures. The construction has been halted due to the postponement of the signing of an addendum to the contract and its possible modification, there is no date for the restart of the works.

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

The six States Parties concerned should be commended for the exemplary collaboration in the management and conservation of the property. Their joint efforts to develop innovative practices, training activities and projects, include the project "Improving the knowledge of conservation in the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System" receiving International Assistance through the World Heritage Fund that aims to improve the know-how of conservation of the property among indigenous peoples, local communities and technicians including through the use of the computerized tools and the Ayllu mobile application.

It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee encourage the States Parties concerned to continue to conform to a common methodology to manage and monitor the components of the property, with some flexibility for the adaptation to national and local contexts.

The training activities implemented concerning the "Kamayuq" mobile application for monitoring and assessing risks benefit the six technical secretariats and help them coordinate their activities, and thus should be welcomed, as should the extensive use of the many technical documents developed in relation to the risk management of the property.

It should be noted with satisfaction that the "Plan for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Associated with Qhapaq Ñan" continues to be implemented, with various training sessions and the inclusion of guidelines for the protection and monitoring of the tangible and intangible attributes of the property in the updated Management System, together with the "Common Guidelines for the Conduct of Heritage Impact Assessments", in addition to a number of educational and outreach projects and initiatives.

It should be welcomed that the HIA of the Chinchero - Cusco International Airport in Peru has been submitted in the Annexes but is not yet approved and includes for consideration an Action Plan of

mitigation measures. ICOMOS will prepare a Technical Review of the HIA and the State Party of Peru should be requested to consider its conclusions and recommendations. The construction work on the airport should be suspended until the technical review is finalized and the possible negative impacts are ascertained on three World Heritage properties in the region: the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System; the City of Cuzco; and the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu. Concerning the Qhapaq Ñan property the indirect impact is assessed as high and irreversable particularly due to increased urban development, infrastructure and tourism levels.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.138

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision **45 COM 7B.106**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2024).
- 3. <u>Commends</u> the six States Parties concerned for the exemplary collaboration in the management and conservation of the property, and for their joint efforts to develop innovative practices, training activities and projects, including the project supported by the World Heritage Fund aiming to improve the know-how of conservation of the property among indigenous peoples, local communities and technicians including through the use of the computerized tools and the Ayllu mobile application;
- 4. <u>Encourages</u> the States Parties to continue conforming to a common methodology to manage and monitor the components of the property, with some flexibility for the adaptation to national and local contexts;
- Welcomes the training activities implemented concerning the "Kamayuq" mobile application for monitoring and assessing risks during the reporting period, as well as the extensive use of the many technical documents developed in relation to the risk management of the property;
- 6. <u>Notes with satisfaction</u> that the "Plan for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Associated with Qhapaq Ñan" continues to be implemented, with various training sessions and the inclusion of guidelines for the protection and monitoring of the tangible and intangible attributes of the property in the updated Management System, together with the "Common Guidelines for the Conduct of Heritage Impact Assessments", in addition to a number of educational and outreach projects and initiatives;
- 7. <u>Also welcomes</u> the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Chinchero Cusco International Airport that was submitted but not approved and includes for consideration an Action Plan of mitigation measures, and <u>requests</u> that the construction work on the airport be suspended pending ascertainment of possible impacts of the airport on three World Heritage properties in the region: the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System; the City of Cuzco; and the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, and <u>requests</u> the State Party of Peru to:
 - a) Consider the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Body technical review of the HIA and to inform the World Heritage Centre accordingly,
 - b) Finalize the Action Plan detailing the mitigation measures **and to** submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it becomes available for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies;

- 8. <u>Further requests</u> the State Party of Peru to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, a progress report on the follow-up to the Advisory Bodies Technical Review of the HIA regarding the Chinchero Cusco International Airport and the detailed mitigation measures proposed, for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
- 9. <u>Finally requests</u> the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

141. Settlement and Artificial Mummification of the Chinchorro Culture in the Arica and Parinacota Region (Chile)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

143. Precolumbian chiefdom settlements with stone spheres of the Diguís (Costa Rica)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2004-2004) Total amount approved: USD 17,500

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 95,260 for the project "Engaging youth from local communities and indigenous peoples in participatory management and conservation of the Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís" (German Foreign Office), currently under implementation

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance
- Interpretative and visitation facilities (provide visitor interpretation and future accessibility to components not yet open to the public)
- Human resources (guardians and managers)
- Housing (future urban development)
- Water infrastructure (discussion on the construction of a hydropower dam)
- Air transport infrastructure
- Financial resources
- Management systems/ management plan

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/documents/, informing on progress in the conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- To further strengthen participatory management, the project "Engaging youth from local communities and indigenous peoples in participatory management and conservation" for the site entered its second phase, focusing on World Heritage knowledge and soft skills for local youth, while other educational activities for 2023-2024 mobilized diverse community groups;
- No significant progress was made on buffer zone from 2022-2024, in spite of negotiations with the new Mayor;
- Disaster Preparedness and Risk Management Plans were restructured in 2024, better focusing on World Heritage values;
- The consolidation of the administrative unit's resources has progressed, but it remains incomplete
 due to changes in personnel and the need to follow a methodology newly introduced by the
 Ministry of Planning for this kind of process;
- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Southern International Airport project is planned, given the proximity of the project to the property. As soon as the resources are available, the HIA will be undertaken. The National Museum of Costa Rica along with other institutions undertook an evaluation in 2024 of archaeological resources in the area of the airport project and recommended rescue work in the places with the highest concentration of materials;
- The HIA for a hydroelectric project could not be finalized as the project continues to be indefinitely halted;
- In 2024, a comprehensive workplan was developed for the property and activities were implemented, including workshops for indigenous communities on cultural heritage conservation.

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

The States Party should be commended for the many educational and awareness-raising activities undertaken to strengthen participatory management and public engagement, particularly involving local youth and a number of diverse community groups. The project "Engaging youth from local communities and indigenous peoples in participatory management and conservation of the Pre-Columbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís. Young Leaders of the Diquís 2023-2024" included training through a series of educational and technical workshops with the participation and leadership of young people from Osa and Boruca communities and indigenous territories.

It is regrettable that no significant progress was made on buffer zone from 2022-2024, in spite of the previous Decisions of the Committee in this respect. In the canton of Osa, despite discussions with the new mayor, limitations for landowners in the buffer zone are a concern that impedes development of a specific regulation of the buffer zone. The State Party should be requested to continue efforts to reach agreements with the Osa municipality and landowners to find a solution to this issue.

The restructuring of the Disaster Preparedness and Risk Management Plans, now better focusing on Outstanding Universal Value, resulted in a conceptual map and the corresponding risk assessment matrix for the property and should be noted with satisfaction.

It is noted that the High-Level Commission to ensure the adequate protection of the property undertook small-scale activities, since the administrative unit of the Site Museum of Finca 6 has assumed different activities related to the operation of the settlements. The administrative unit for the Visitor Centre and the archaeological site is being created. It is recommended that the Committee request again that the consolidated and multidisciplinary management unit for the property be established.

Field and lab work by the Department of Anthropology and History in the area of the Southern International Airport project confirmed the presence of pre-Colombian settlements and recommended rescue work. It is noted that the HIA for the Southern International Airport project is planned and the funds for it are being identified. Close follow up of this project should be ensured, given the vicinity of the project to the property.

It is also noted that the HIA for a hydroelectric project could not be finalized, as the project remains indefinitely halted.

It is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the comprehensive workplan and related activities for the property, and invite it to further develop the activities therein.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.143

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision **45 COM 7B.113**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Commends</u> the State Party for the educational and awareness-raising activities undertaken to strengthen participatory management and public engagement, particularly involving local youth, indigenous peoples and a number of diverse community groups;
- 4. <u>Regrets</u> that no significant progress was made on the regulation for the buffer zone from 2022-2024, in spite of the previous decisions of the Committee in this respect, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to reach an agreement among the relevant parties and stakeholders and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed;
- 5. <u>Notes with satisfaction</u> the restructuring of the Disaster Preparedness and Risk Management Plans, now better focusing on World Heritage values;
- 6. <u>Notes</u> that the consolidation of the administrative unit remains incomplete and <u>also</u> requests again that the consolidated and multidisciplinary management unit for the property be established;
- 7. <u>Also requests</u> that the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Southern International Airport project be conducted as soon as possible in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that its results be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
- 8. <u>Also notes</u> that the HIA for a hydroelectric project could not be finalized as the project remains indefinitely halted;
- 9. <u>Also commends</u> the State Party for the comprehensive workplan for the property and its implementation, and <u>invites</u> it to further develop the activities therein;
- 10. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

144. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Rep)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1990-2000) Total amount approved: USD 82,207

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1993, 1995, 1998: Monitoring missions; August 2001: ICOMOS Monitoring mission; 2002: World Heritage Centre mission; December 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (undefined and unregulated buffer zone leading to urban development pressure and inadequate control of land use)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- · Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Vulnerability to earthquakes and hurricanes
- Deterioration of historic structures derived from natural and social factors (including environmental pollution and lack of sensitization of local residents)
- Housing Urban development project (Sansouci)
- Land conversion
- Management systems/ management plan
- Society's valuing of heritage
- Underground transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/documents/. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The implementation of the Integral Programme for Tourism and Urban Development of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo (PIDTUCCSD) is progressing. The collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism (MITUR), the Ministry of Culture (MINC) and the National District Council (ADN) was strengthened through joint activities and information exchange. Consultancies and capacity building are being implemented at the Cultural Heritage and Historic Centre Directorate (DPCH) and the National Directorate of Monumental Heritage (DNPM) in preparation of a Master Plan for the historical centre;
- In 2023, a 14% increase in visitors was reported as was 35% growth for the first half of 2024 when compared to the same period in 2023. In November 2024, a workshop was conducted on Visitor Management and Recreational Carrying Capacity;
- An update is presented on the implementation of the 2022-2023 Action Plan;
- The technical-legal review of the Law for Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage is in its final stage;

- The Minor Boundary Modification was submitted and approved. Consultations with the Municipality of Santo Domingo East have started following the Committee's recommendation for inclusion of the municipality in the management of the property;
- No progress has been made in the Sustainable Tourism Certification process. However, substantive assistance has been provided to micro and small enterprises. The Medical Emergency Plan is under review;
- The Risk and Disaster Management Plan (PGRD-CCSD) has been prepared and a review by the Advisory Bodies is requested;
- A façade cleaning and consolidation programme for historic buildings is underway. Four historic museums are receiving restoration and conservation interventions;
- Stabilisation works at the ruins of the Convent of San Francisco were initiated in April 2022 but had to be suspended. In November 2023, a workshop was held to discuss studies on the structural vulnerability and possible reinforcement of the ruins. Shortly after the event, heavy rain caused part of a wall of the church to collapse. Emergency measures were taken, and technical studies continue to identify appropriate consolidation methodologies with the use of wooden beams. The development of a vision statement about the future use of the ruins was initiated in 2022:
- As part of the 'Integral Program for Tourism and Urban Development', the Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Public Spaces on Prioritized Streets allocates funds for urban infrastructure including water systems, paving and landscaping, that could have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

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

The State Party should be commended for the continued implementation of the PIDTUCCSD, the joint management of the programme and for strengthening the DNPM and DCPH through capacity building and consultancy services.

It is appreciated that the State Party has started consultations with the Municipality of Santo Domingo East in response to the Committee's recommendation made at the time of the approval of the Minor Boundary Modification (Decision **46 COM 8B.43**), to include the municipality in the management system of the property and buffer zones, and it is recommended that it be considered to establish a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism that would further support the protection of the OUV of the property.

Note of the process for the development of a Master Plan for the historic city should be taken and it should be sent to the World Heritage Centre when finalized.

The detailed data collection of visitor numbers to the historic centre and the individual components such as monuments, museums, streets and tourism services, including hotels, has proven an adequate monitoring tool. However, it is noted that there was a sharp increase in visitor numbers in the first half of 2024. It would be useful to prepare projections on when the maximum carrying capacity would be reached and to identify the most appropriate measures for sustainable tourism management.

The State Party should be encouraged to proceed urgently with the revision and approval of the Law for Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage, the Sustainable Tourism Certification process and the review and reintroduction of the Medical Emergency Plan.

It is noted with appreciation that the report includes the draft PGRD-CCSD. ICOMOS undertook a technical review of this plan and the State Party should be requested to consider the recommendations and observations made by the Advisory Body.

The technical reports are noted on the cleaning and consolidation of the façades of historic buildings, the restoration of La Puerta de la Misericordia and the archaeological research at the Puerta de las Damas. It is noted that no further information is provided on the reconstruction and restoration of the Hotel Frances and the Santa Barbara Church.

The restoration and adaptation of four museums is noted. These are housed in major historical monuments: the museums of the Cathedral, La Fortaleza de Santo Domingo, Alcázar de Colón and las Casas Reales. The first two of them have been concluded and are open to the public. Analysis of the documentation provided on the interventions completed at the Fortaleza de Santo Domingo indicates that the concerns regarding conservation methods and intervention approaches previously identified remain valid. Unfortunately, the State Party did not provide additional information to the World Heritage

Centre to allow the Advisory Bodies to provide advice, as previously requested the by Committee in Decisions **45 COM 7B.114** and **44 COM 7B.66** and in concordance with the invitation extended in Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

It is of concern that the stabilisation works in the complex of the Convent of San Francisco have been delayed and that recent rains caused some damage to the ruins of the church. Stabilisation remains an urgent need while the process for the identification of future conservation strategies and use of the complex continues. The State Party should be recommended to continue this process in a participatory manner and keep the Committee informed of its outcomes.

Note should be taken of the Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Public Spaces on Prioritized Streets which includes updated infrastructure including water systems, sanitation and drainage, underground electrical and telecommunication networks, paving and landscaping to support climate change adaptation and mitigation and prioritize pedestrian traffic. As the State Party indicates that the project could have an impact on the OUV of the Property, the project should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre before its implementation, as per Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for technical review by the Advisory Bodies.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.144

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 46 COM 8B.43, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Commends</u> the State Party for the significant progress made in the implementation of the Integral Programme for Tourism and Urban Development of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo, the joint management of the programme between the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture and the National District Council (ADN), as well as for the strengthening of the National Directorate of Monumental Heritage (DNPM) and the Cultural Heritage and Historic Centre Directorate (DCPH) through capacity building and consultancy services;
- 4. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> that the ADN will prepare a Master Plan for the historical city and <u>requests</u> the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of its progress;
- 5. Also notes that an effective system is in place to monitor visitor numbers to components of the historic centre and that these are generally well below the established carrying capacity numbers, but that there was a sharp increase in the first half of 2024, and recommends the State Party to prepare projections on when the maximum carrying capacity would be reached and to identify the most appropriate measures for sustainable tourism management in such case;
- 6. <u>Welcomes</u> the consultations with the municipality of Santo Domingo East regarding its incorporation in the management of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to consider this to establish a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism that would further support the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
- 7. <u>Also encourages</u> the State Party to urgently finalise the revision and approval of the Law for Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage, to advance the Sustainable Tourism Certification process and to complete the review of the Medical Emergency Plan;

- 8. <u>Further notes</u> the advances in the conservation works in the urban ensemble and individual historical monuments and the improvement of visitor facilities including museum upgrades, and <u>reiterates its request</u> to submit plans and other documentation of conservation projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before implementing them;
- Also welcomes the submission of the draft Risk and Disaster Management Plan for the historic city, notes furthermore that ICOMOS undertook a technical review of this plan and also recommends the State Party to consider the recommendations made in this review:
- 10. <u>Regrets</u> the delay in the execution of the stabilisation works at the Convent of San Francisco and that heavy rains caused damage to the ruins, and <u>urges</u> the State Party to implement the necessary measures and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of further developments concerning the restoration and future use of the complex;
- 11. <u>Requests</u> the State Party, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to submit the necessary technical information of the project for rehabilitation of public spaces to the World Heritage Centre so that it can be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies before final decisions are taken:
- 12. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

147. Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panama)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2010: on the occasion of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to Portobelo and San Lorenzo, a technical visit to the Archaeological Site of Panama Viejo and the Historic District was undertaken, as requested by the authorities of Panama; October 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2013: Joint High level World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Severe deterioration of historic buildings

- Conflicting interests of different stakeholders with regard to the use, management and conservation of the historic centre
- Limited capacity for the rehabilitation and maintenance of historic structures
- Deficiencies in the implementation of the legislative framework for protection
- Lack of implementation of clear conservation and management policies for the property
- Demolition of urban ensembles and buildings
- Forced displacement of occupants and squatters
- Urban development projects within the protected area (i.e. Cinta Costera)
- Visual impact of the Cinta Costera project Maritime Viaduct
- Inadequate long-term financial sustainability of conservation and management efforts
- Financial resources
- Housing
- Human resources
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Legal framework

<u>Illustrative material</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/

Current Conservation issues

In 2019, the State Party of Panamá submitted a nomination dossier with the aim to transform the "Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá" into a serial property under the name of "Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá". The World Heritage Committee (Decision **43 COM 8B.40**) deferred the request and asked for a resubmission. The nomination was resubmitted in January 2023, and referred back by the World Heritage Committee in 2024 (Decision **45 COM 8B.29**).

On 30 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/documents/. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in those reports, as follows:

- The State Party is preparing a regulation on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), which will take into account impacts such as those caused by visuals, with possible mitigation measures for the cases assessed:
- The Management Plan (2014-2019) continues to be the principal instrument for the management of the property. While the report indicates that update efforts are ongoing, the State Party has prepared a management plan with a planning horizon of 15 years for the nominated property of the "Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panama" (CTRP);
- The State Party reports on the application of the study of the viewsheds and the visual corridor analysis for Panama Viejo, and indicates that the existing zoning, corresponding to the buffer zone of Panama Viejo, is effective for the conservation of the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- There are several development projects in and around the two component parts of the property. Two of these planned projects, located in the buffer zone of the Historic District and its wider surroundings, are focused on the improvement of roads, pavements, sidewalks, lighting and street furniture. A project that has already been finalised is the construction of the 12-storey Casco View building, which was approved before the new Local Land Use Plan was adopted in 2021. The new regulation would only have allowed a 4-storey building in that location. According to the State Party, and due to the narrow streets in the Historic District, the building is "not very visible" (p. 16). Since the adoption of the Local Land Use Plan, no new development projects have been submitted for the area;
- The Office for the Casco Antiguo (OCA), in cooperation with the Municipality of Panama (MUPA) and the Urban and Domiciliary Sanitation Authority of Panama (AAUD), have put in place a Waste Management Plan, which includes special collection routes and schedules;
- The Patronato Panama Viejo continues to implement the Plan for the Sustainable Recovery of the Cultural Landscape of the Archaeological Site, which is described as a useful tool. No information is presented on the evaluation of this plan;
- Advances are reported on some of the management tools for the two component parts as well as
 for the nominated property of the CTRP, in which the components will be integrated. The State

Party report includes the recent National Strategic Plan for Integral Management of Disaster Risk of Panama 2022-2030 (SINAPROC);

- The widening and addition of two junctions to the Corredor Sur Highway, affects a small section of the buffer zone. The project was approved by the Panamanian authorities, as well as by the Commission of Archaeology and Historical Monuments, under the consideration that it did not represent an impact on the property;
- Several activities were carried out and some still ongoing connected to conservation and the
 planning framework for the property, including the revision of the Master Plan for the Historic
 District, the application of the Mobility Plan, which is included in the Plan of the City Centre, and
 a Pilot Project for Waste Recycling;
- Important steps have been taken to improve the general legal framework, such as the General Law of Culture.

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

The work of the State Party on a nomination dossier with the aim to transform the "Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá" into a serial property under the name of "Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá" should be noted.

More details should be requested on the advances of the inclusion of the HIA process in the legal framework, as this is one of the most urgent issues to resolve to ensure the good conservation of the property. The Committee should take note of the application of the study of the viewsheds and the visual corridor analysis for Panama Viejo and the effectiveness of existing zoning, together with the preparation of the new management plan for the nominated property.

More information should be requested on the development projects that can have impact on the OUV of the property reported by the State Party. The obligation of the State Party to notify projects before any decision on their implementation, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, should be reminded to the State Party, as well as the need to assess any major project in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

The creation of a Waste Management Plan including special collection routes and schedules should be welcomed.

The Committee should take note also of the implementation of the Plan for the Sustainable Recovery of the Cultural Landscape of the Archaeological Site, while information should be requested on the evaluation of this plan.

The advances reported on some of the National Strategic Plan for Integral Management of Disaster Risk of Panama 2022-2030 (SINAPROC) and other management tools for the two component parts as well as for the nominated property of the CTRP should be welcomed.

Concerning the widening and addition of two junctions to the Corredor Sur Highway, ICOMOS elaborated a technical review on the project and made recommendations for its implementation. To avoid future problems, ICOMOS recommends that the Committee request the elaboration of provisions be put in place to prohibit the widening of the corridor.

The past and ongoing conservation actions included in the Preventive Conservation Plan, as well as regular inspection and maintenance of the site's support structures, should be noted with appreciation.

Concerning the steps, reported as important, to improve the general legal framework, such as the General Law of Culture, clarifications should be requested on how such legal measures contribute to the conservation of the site.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.147

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,

- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **44 COM 7B.168** and **45 COM 7B.116**, adopted at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) respectively,
- 3. <u>Notes</u> that the State Party is working on a referred back nomination dossier that would transform the sites into component parts of a serial property under the name of "Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá":
- 4. <u>Requests</u> detailed information on the advances of the inclusion of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) process in the legal framework, as an urgent issue to resolve to ensure the good conservation of the property;
- 5. <u>Takes note</u> of the application of the study of the viewsheds and the visual corridor analysis for Panama Viejo and the effectiveness of existing zoning, together with the preparation of the new management plan for the nominated property;
- 6. <u>Also requests</u> more information on the projects that can have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and <u>reminds</u> the State Party that it has to inform the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all projects which may affect the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, <u>and further reminds</u> the State Party that any major development project has to be rigorously assessed, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
- 7. <u>Also takes note</u> also of the implementation of the Plan for the Sustainable Recovery of the Cultural Landscape of the Archaeological Site, and <u>requests</u> information on the evaluation of this Plan:
- 8. <u>Welcomes</u> the establishment of a Waste Management Plan, which includes special collection routes and schedules, by the Office for the Casco Antiguo (OCA), in cooperation with the Municipality of Panama (MUPA) and the Urban and Domiciliary Sanitation Authority of Panama (AAUD);
- 9. <u>Recommends</u> that the recommendations of ICOMOS' Technical Review on Corredor Sur Highway be applied, and that provisions be put in place to prohibit its widening, given that it could affect the site, and <u>further requests</u> a report on the advances of this process;
- 10. <u>Also welcomes</u> the advances on the National Strategic Plan for Integral Management of Disaster Risk of Panama 2022-2030 (SINAPROC) and other management tools for the two component parts as well as for the nominated property of the "Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panama";
- 11. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the past and ongoing conservation actions included in the Preventive Conservation Plan, as well as regular inspection and maintenance of the site's support structures;
- 12. <u>Further requests</u> clarifications on the impact on the conservation of the property of the steps, reported as important, to improve the general legal framework, such as the General Law of Culture:
- 13. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

149. Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 23,000 for the project "Management Plan for Paramaribo" in 2010; and USD 125,362 provided for the project "Inner City of Paramaribo. Phase I & II" from 2005 to 2008 (UNESCO/Netherlands Funds in Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

August 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; January 2024: joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework
- Management systems/ management plan (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/218257. Progress in the conservation issues addressed by the Committee is presented in the report, as follows:

- A second 'Paramaribo Rehabilitation Program' (PURP II) will be implemented through June 2029, per an agreement signed between the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the State Party for a USD 30 million loan, for the continued rehabilitation and management of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo, and includes finalization and implementation of the new Management Plan (2024-2028);
- Under PURP I, Sections of the 2020-2024 Management Plan were implemented, three historic government-owned buildings (Mirandastr. 10, and Waterkant 30-32) were restored, awareness raising and communication with stakeholders was undertaken and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) were conducted;
- The extension of the borders of the existing buffer zones and also of the property to include a 50metre strip along the river were drafted since 2023 but the authorities have not taken a decision;
- Following an assessment, the legal and institutional frameworks of the Building Committee and the Monuments Committee have been revised and four guidance manuals will be produced:
- Despite two technical reviews by ICOMOS and a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission in January 2024 that recommend that the State Party revise the design for the new National Assembly Hall and conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the revised design, the State Party decided to restart the construction without altering the design;
- Regarding the Palm Garden, a Management and Maintenance Plan (2024-2029) for the Palmentuin is being prepared through PURP I. A workshop will be held in early 2025 and the final plan will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review;
- The ten-story Yogh Parking Garage borders the World Heritage property, in the proposed extension of the buffer zone II. In spite of the ICOMOS Technical Review finding that the redesign of the project will still have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and the

recommendations to reduce the height and scale and undertake a HIA, the construction is continuing as planned;

- Other projects include the Amphitheatre at the old Flag Square, which, following a screening and scoping exercise, is deemed not to negatively impact the property's OUV, and the dismantling of the Telecommunication Tower which has a positive impact on the OUV.
- On 22 April 2025, the World Heritage Centre received a complementary report informing that on 17 April 2025, a fire at Henck Arronstraat destroyed five wooden heritage buildings (no. 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44) in the core of the property.

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

The new agreement between the State Party and the IADB for PURP II (2024-2029) is important to the conservation, management and governance of the property and will include finalizing the next Management Plan (2024-2028) and its implementation. The details of the PURP II should be sent to the World Heritage Centre for information, and the new Management Plan should be finalized as soon as possible and sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Activities undertaken in PURP I should be noted with appreciation, notably implementation of sections of the Management Plan (2020-2024), restoration of three government-owned historic buildings, awareness raising and ESIA.

The importance of extending the boundaries of the property to include a 50-metre strip along the river and to extend the buffer zone were presented to the Ministry of Public Works in 2022 and an explanatory note was issued in 2023. It is regrettable that the State Party has still not decided on this, even following the last Committee Decision. They should again be urged to do so and to submit them as a Minor Boundary Modification.

Pursuant to a consultancy "Revision of the Special Building Codes" done in PURP I, to assess the existing legal framework used by and the operational frameworks of the Building Committee and the Monuments Committee, and to provide guidance to the Ministry of Public Works and a proposal on revised building codes, four guidance manuals will be produced. This is important work that will improve the management and conservation of historic buildings within the property, and it should be welcomed. Any revision of building codes should be sent to the World Heritage Centre.

Regarding the National Assembly Hall being constructed behind the buildings at Hench Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, the State Party highlights the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of May and September 2023, as well as the Report of the 2024 Advisory mission, which concluded that the proposed design of the building, if constructed at this location, would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the OUV of the property. Whereas both Technical Reviews concluded that any construction of this kind would seriously affect the OUV and should not proceed, the Advisory mission offered a compromise solution and recommended that the design be adjusted so that the height of the roof and proposed facades are not higher than those of Henck Arronstraat 2-4 and 6, and that a HIA be undertaken on the amended design. This is also in line with the Committee Decision **45 COM 7B.119**. It is recommended that the Committee note with serious regret that the State Party decided to restart the construction with no change to the design, and request that the construction be halted, the design be revised pursuant to the recommendations in the report of the Advisory mission, and a HIA be undertaken of the new design. If the construction proceeds as originally planned, this could constitute a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines.

Following a study and a risk assessment of the Palm Garden undertaken in 2023, it was found that the health conditions of 87% and the structural conditions of 90% are good or fair, and 50 unhealthy palm trees were removed. Following the recommendations of two ICOMOS Technical Reviews, a Management and Maintenance Plan (2024-2029) for the Palmentuin was prepared under the PURP. ICOMOS will prepare a Technical Review of this plan and the State Party should be encouraged to consider the recommendations that may be made in this review.

The second ICOMOS Technical Review (September 2024) of the ten-story Yogh Parking Garage project as revised, which is located in the proposed extension of the buffer zone II on the border of the World Heritage property, recommended that the building should not exceed the lower volume of the nearby Yogh Hospitality Hotel because it will most probably be seen from important vistas within the property and considering the historic urban landscape of the property, the project will have a negative visual impact on the overall integrity and therefore, on the OUV. The ICOMOS recommendations to reduce the height and scale, and to undertake a HIA, particularly on the visual impact on the integrity of the property,

were not sufficiently followed and construction continues as planned. It is recommended that the Committee regret the continued construction and urge the State Party to halt the construction, revise the building's height and undertake a HIA before proceeding with construction. Delays in the implementation of the above could constitute a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines.

The Amphitheatre project at the old Flag Square which, following a screening and scoping exercise, is deemed not to negatively impact the property's OUV, and the dismantling of the Telecommunication Tower, which has a positive impact on the OUV, should be noted by the Committee.

The destruction of five historic buildings by fire on 17 April 2025 is regrettable. The State Party should be encouraged to improve risk preparedness measures and invited to submit to the World Heritage Centre a complete report of the incident, including future rehabilitation and conservation plans proposed regarding the damaged area.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.149

- 1. <u>Having examined</u> Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision **45 COM 7B.119**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the agreement between the State Party and the Inter American Development Bank for the second 'Paramaribo Rehabilitation Program' (PURP II) (2024-2029) supporting conservation, management and governance of the Historic Inner City of Paramaribo and <u>requests</u> the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre the details of PURP II for information:
- 4. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to finalize and implement the next Management Plan (2024-2028) within PURP II and <u>requests</u> the State Party to send this Plan to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 5. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> activities undertaken in PURP I, notably implementation of sections of the Management Plan (2020-2024), restoration of three government-owned historic buildings, awareness raising among stakeholders and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments;
- 6. Regrets that no action has been taken concerning the extension of the boundaries of the property to include a 50-metre strip along the river nor concerning the draft extension of the boundaries of the buffer zone and urges again the State Party to submit them as a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines:
- 7. <u>Also welcomes</u> the review undertaken of the legal and operational frameworks of the Building Committee and the Monuments Committee and the resulting four guidance manuals that will be published supporting management and conservation of the property and <u>further requests</u> the State Party to submit any new building codes to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 8. Notes with serious concern that construction of the National Assembly Hall behind the buildings at Hench Arronstraat 2-4 and 6 continues without adjusting the size and scope of the design as recommended in the report of the January 2024 joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission and which concluded that the design of the building, if constructed at this location, would pose an adverse and irreversible impact on the Outstanding

Universal Value (OUV) of the property in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, and also urges the State Party to:

- a) Halt its construction,
- b) Revise the building's design pursuant to the recommendations of the report of the 2024 Advisory mission,
- c) Undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on any new design, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,
- d) Provide any new design and HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 9. <u>Welcomes with appreciation</u> the study, risk assessment and removal of sick trees in the Palm Garden and the Management and Maintenance Plan (2024-2029) for the Palmentuin prepared under PURP and <u>requests</u> ICOMOS to prepare a Technical Review of the Plan and the State Party to consider its recommendations;
- 10. Notes with concern the continued construction of the Yogh Parking Garage project on the border of the property, which could constitute a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, and <u>further urges</u> the State Party to:
 - a) Halt its construction.
 - b) Take into consideration the recommendations of the September 2024 ICOMOS Technical review and revise the building design so that it does not exceed the lower volume of the nearby Yogh Hospitality Hotel,
 - c) Undertake a HIA,
 - d) Provide any new design and HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 11. <u>Notes</u> the Amphitheatre project at the old Flag Square which is deemed not to negatively impact the property's OUV, and the dismantling of the Telecommunication Tower, which has a positive impact on the OUV;
- 12. <u>Also notes with concern</u> that the delays in the finalization of the actions referred to in paragraphs 8 and 10 above could ultimately constitute a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 13. <u>Also notes with serious concern</u> the recent loss of five heritage buildings due to fire, <u>encourages</u> the State Party to improve risk preparedness measures and <u>invites</u> it to submit to the World Heritage Centre a complete report of the incident, including future rehabilitation and conservation plans proposed regarding the damaged area;
- 14. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session, considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

AFRICA

151. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

152. Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba (Benin, Togo)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

153. Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2015-2020) Total amount approved: USD 5,000

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 57,734 from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement; USD 206,400 from the government of Norway in 2020

Previous monitoring missions

2013 and 2014: Technical assistance missions in the framework of the Convention France-UNESCO for management in 2013 and restoration of the ancient Palace of Justice in 2014; Technical Assistance mission for the AfriCAP2016 project financed by the European Union in the framework of the ACP Cultures+ Programme; 2019: Emergency mission of UNESCO experts following the floods that occurred on the site in October 2019 financed by the Heritage Emergency Fund

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management system to be strengthened
- Legal framework to be strengthened
- Management and conservation activities to be strengthened
- Insufficient human resources
- Insufficient financial resources

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/documents/, including numerous technical annexes and providing information on the state of conservation of the property as follows:

- The intervention guide needs to be updated and expanded to include potential areas at risk, and then adapted in the form of illustrated leaflets or catalogues to raise awareness among local communities and private owners;
- Raising awareness among local communities is continuing at festive events and community gatherings, and its impact is being felt through increased use of the services and advice of the "Maison du Patrimoine" for projects such as the restoration of the former Saint-Amand pharmacy and the semi-detached building;
- As part of a public-private partnership (PPP) between the State and Société Générale Côte d'Ivoire (SGCI), restoration work has been ongoing on the former Hôtel des Poste et Douane since June 2022 and the former Officers' mess;
- A steering and monitoring committee for restoration work on historic monuments has been set up;
- The project to restore the former Palace of Justice, which was launched between 2016 and 2018, has not been completed;
- The State Party affirms that the 2011 Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape
 has been taken into account, including in the impact assessment of the project to open up the
 mouth of the Comoé River to avoid negative impacts on the socio-cultural environment of the
 N'zima village, on the sacred grove and on the economic activities of fishermen and fish
 merchants:
- The property has a disaster risk management plan;
- Work to open up the mouth of the Comoé river as part of the project to protect and enhance the Cocody Bay and Ebrié Lagoon (PABC; approx. USD 43 million), aimed at solving the problems of flooding and pollution of aquatic plants, has been completed. A technical dossier on the project is appended to the report;
- The State Party has observed a decline in aquatic plants in the Ebrié and Ouladine lagoons, attributed to improved water renewal and increased salinity. The Centre Ivoirien Antipollution (CIAPOL) will be responsible for monitoring the clean-up and preservation of water bodies;
- Risk factors are raised, such as tidal waves and coastal erosion, which would however be slowed down thanks to the opening of the mouth and its western jetty.

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

The State Party's report is highly detailed and extensively illustrated, enabling us to appreciate the efforts made to conserve and enhance the property. A number of historic buildings are in a state of conservation requiring restoration. The report also draws attention to initiatives to mobilise support and partnerships, update the management plan, draw up a risk management plan and raise awareness in local communities.

The project to refurbish the former Hôtel des Poste et Douane, supported by the SGCI and to house the Maison de l'art, is a perfect illustration of the State Party's approach to tackling these challenges. This rehabilitation, carried out as part of a PPP, is an example of good practice that can be used to spark the interest of other donors for the rehabilitation of other buildings. Given the scale of the work to be carried out, a vast fund-raising programme should be developed, with specifications setting out a detailed, costed plan for each project to restore other heritage buildings, both public and private. The former Palace of Justice, the Ganamet, the Maison des Artistes, the former Maison du Résident and the Old Lighthouse of Bassam, among many others, could benefit from such a programme. It is also appreciated that the State Party seeks to formulate recommendations for the future use of these buildings so that they serve local culture and heritage interpretation. It would be advisable, for example, to create an Interpretation Centre to improve visitor reception.

Given the property's significant appeal and socio-economic potential for communities, such a comprehensive programme would be beneficial to the development of a sustainable tourism infrastructure. This deserves more attention in terms of capacity building and institutional structuring, particularly for the staff of the Maison du Patrimoine, the municipality, tourist guides and the hotel sector, among others. It would also enable cultural entrepreneurship to be developed, young people to be trained in heritage professions, cultural industries to be enhanced and risk management to be strengthened. The reaffirmation of the desire to incorporate the 2011 Recommendation concerning the

Historic Urban Landscape is welcome and should be pursued, including for the further enhancement of the N'zima village and culture.

It is considered important to foster support for private owners and make them aware of the rules to be observed, as well as guiding any interventions towards maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value. It is therefore essential that the update of the Intervention Guide, developed by CRAterre, is finalised as soon as possible.

On the other hand, although it is stated that the recommendations of the emergency mission of November 2019, in particular to respect the height of the groins, have been considered, it is regrettable that the work to open the mouth of the Comoé River, carried out as part of the PABC project, was initiated and completed without consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. In a technical file that was ultimately shared, the State Party points to a number of positive impacts of this opening, including a reduction in the risk of flooding and the decontamination of aquatic plants in the Ebrié and Ouladine lagoons. It is therefore recommended that the Committee ask to be kept informed, through future reports, of the evolution of the impacts observed, especially the possible effects on the site, and on the development projects for the areas around the N'zima village and the western jetty at the mouth. Mitigation measures for any potential impact should be developed accordingly.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.153

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.121 adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the efforts and commitments of the State Party for the conservation and enhancement of the property, raising awareness in local communities, as well as for the mobilisation of financial support and public-private partnerships (PPP) for the rehabilitation of the emblematic buildings of the historic town, following the example of the former Hotel des Poste et Douane, supported by the Société Générale Côte d'Ivoire (SGCI);
- 4. <u>Notes also</u> the scale of the rehabilitation work to be carried out and the various challenges associated with promotion and enhancement, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to develop a wide-ranging programme to develop the city's heritage and raise funds, including in particular:
 - a) a set of specifications proposing a detailed, costed plan for each project aimed at renovating heritage buildings, both public and private,
 - b) with regard to these renovations, the formulation of recommendations for the future use of the buildings to serve local culture and heritage interpretation,
 - c) a proposal to create an Interpretation Centre to improve visitor reception,
 - d) a tourism infrastructure development plan that will tap into the socio-economic potential of local communities and focus on capacity-building and institutional structuring, in particular for the staff of the Maison du Patrimoine, the municipality, tourist guides and the hotel sector, among others,
 - e) actions to develop cultural entrepreneurship, targeting young people in the city, training in heritage professions and promoting cultural industries,
 - f) building the capacity of the historic city to improve risk management;
- 5. <u>Welcomes</u> the State Party's reaffirmation of its intention to incorporate the 2011 Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape, which should be pursued,

- including for the increased enhancement of the N'zima village and culture, and <u>urges</u> the State Party to inform it of the progress made in its next report;
- 6. <u>Also encourages</u> the State Party to foster its support for private owners to make them aware of the rules to be observed and to ensure that any work carried out is geared towards preserving heritage values, and <u>calls</u> for the updating of the intervention guide developed by CRAterre to be finalised as soon as possible so that it can be widely distributed among the main stakeholders concerned;
- 7. Regrets that the work to open the mouth of the Comoé River as part of the project to safeguard and enhance the Cocody Bay and the Ebrié Lagoon (PABC) was completed without consultation and sharing of a technical dossier at the start of the project with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and calls on the State Party to draw up mitigation measures for any potential impacts;
- 8. <u>Takes note</u> of the information provided by the State Party on several impacts already observed and considered positive as a result of this opening, notably the reduction in the risk of flooding and the environmental remediation of aquatic plants in the Ebrié and Ouladine lagoons, and <u>also requests</u> the State Party to continue to provide updated information on this subject in its future reports, paying particular attention to the potential effects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and <u>further requests</u> the State Party to provide details on the development projects envisaged at the N'zima village and the western jetty of the mouth;
- 9. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

154. Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

157. Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site (Kenya)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

160. Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (iii)(v)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1997-2017) Total amount approved: USD 47,017

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 22,296 in 2016 through the Hungary Funds-in-Trust for rehabilitation and conservation activities

Previous monitoring missions

May 2018: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (in Abuja, Nigeria)

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Drought
- · Availability of building materials
- Damage to the Hidi Palace, the Palace Square, the Black Smith Homestead, paved walkways and ritual structures by insurgents
- Civil unrest (issue resolved)
- · Illegal activities

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/documents/. The State Party reported progress in addressing the concerns of the Committee, as follows:

- Efforts were made to strengthen collaborations between key governmental, non-governmental, and community stakeholders to ensure the continued preservation of the property through strategic conservation management programmes and activities;
- The security situation has improved thanks to joint efforts by the Adamawa State Government, Madagali North Local Government Authorities, and local security organizations. The State Party also aims to secure a favorable travel advisory for non-Nigerians by the end of 2025, but compliance with advisories from relevant security agencies remain necessary;
- Efforts are also underway to improve essential community facilities that benefit the well-being of residents;
- Following a workshop on Climate Vulnerability Impact Assessment in 2021, a mini-meteorological station was installed at the hilltop of the site, to monitor climate impact, revealing prolonged dry seasons and droughts affecting vegetation and material availability:
- Discussions are on-going with the community, including also ICOMOS Nigeria, to seek solutions
 for raw materials for thatch roofs and woven mats, such as plant resources from outside the area
 or the introduction of drought-resistant plants;
- While the Hidi Palace, the Palace Square and the immediate surroundings, as well as homesteads on the hilltops have retained the use of traditional building materials, reduced availability and rising costs of thatch continue to favour the alternative use of corrugated zinc sheets more significantly in parts of the community were settlement expansion occurred to cater to the growing population;

- The National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) is monitoring this with the Hidiin-Council and community stakeholders, seeking also to develop solutions that balance conservation with economic incentives, while conserving the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- The updating of the Conservation Management Plan, including the Disaster Risk Preparedness Management Plan, has been delayed due to administrative and logistic challenges at the NCMM, but the State Party expected to be able to submit it to the World Heritage Centre in April 2025;
- In September 2024, heavy rainfall caused flash floods that eroded the footpath to the Hidi Palace and affected some stone terraced farms of the property. Remedial action was taken by the community, with guidance from NCMM and ICOMOS Nigeria, that has proposed to document the walkway and carry out restoration work under the 2024 US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation Grant, with full implementation planned for 2025.

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

The State Party's ongoing efforts to address the various challenges faced by the property, including the security concerns, climate vulnerabilities, material availability and the development of conservation measures are commendable.

The prevailing security situation has been among the primary challenges for a number of years, improvement in that regard through strengthened collaboration with key governmental authorities and non-governmental and community stakeholders, and through strategic conservation management programmes and activities is therefore essential. This, as well as the strong community-centered approach for the management and conservation of the property should be encouraged further.

In that regard, it is urgent that the updating of the Conservation Management Plan be finalized as soon as possible by the NCMM. It is noted with appreciation that the submission of this new Plan, including an updated Disaster Risk Management Plan, is now anticipated for mid-2025 for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The impact of climate change causing prolonged dry seasons and droughts, has a significant consequence for the vegetation at the property and continues to potentially impact its OUV, in particular through reduced availability of the raw materials used for the traditional thatch roofs and woven mats (Zana), and through the consequential increase in the use of corrugated zinc sheets as an alternative. The continued discussions between the State Party through the NCMM and the local stakeholders, including the community, as well as ICOMOS Nigeria, to explore viable solutions, including seeking plant resources from areas outside the Madagali region and introducing drought-resistant plant varieties, are noted with appreciation. It is also appreciated that this active dialogue with the Hidi-in Council and community stakeholders also aims to explore efforts to create economic incentives while ensuring the conservation of key features of the property.

These community-focused developments are encouraging but have not yet translated into a comprehensive and inclusive long-term strategy to define the contribution that traditional construction techniques make to the OUV of this property, including an appropriate policy, guideline and awareness programme for existing and future construction in the property. The Committee should reiterate its previous request that such long-term strategy and policy be developed with the support of the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and other partners, still in collaboration with the Hidi-in Council and the local communities.

The reported flash foods due to heavy rainfall of September 2024 show the need for regular monitoring of the situation and longer-term climatic developments, therefore the installation of a mini-meteorological station at the hilltop of the property, is appreciated. Nevertheless, it is reassuring that immediate remedial action was taken by the local community after these rainfalls caused erosions of parts of the stone-paved walkway to the Hidi's Palace and damages on some terraced farms, and that documentation of the stone-paved walkway as well as restoration work will be ensured as part of the 2024 US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation Grant, in partnership with NCMM.

Finally, given that no mission to the property could be organized so far, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to be carried out as soon as the necessary security clearance can be obtained.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.160

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision **45 COM 7B.130**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Commends</u> the State Party on the progress made in addressing the security situation, with the involvement of the Adamawa State Government, Madagali North Local Government Authority, and community security organizations, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to continue its efforts for further stabilization of the security situation;
- 4. <u>Welcomes</u> the State Party's support to strengthened collaboration between key governmental, non-governmental, and community stakeholders to ensure the continued management of the property and the safeguarding of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts in that regard;
- 5. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> that the updating of the Conservation Management Plan, which will include an updated Disaster Risk Management Plan, of the property is nearing finalization, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 6. <u>Expresses concern</u> at the growing impact of climate change notably on the vegetation at the property and the potential impact on its OUV, in particular through reduced availability of the raw materials used for the traditional thatch roofs and woven mats (Zana), and at the consequential increase in the use of corrugated zinc sheets as an alternative, and <u>also welcomes</u> the installation of a mini-meteorological station at the hilltop of the property that will allow a more regular monitoring of the current and longer-term climatic developments at the property;
- 7. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to continue the commendable active dialogue with the Hidiin Council and community stakeholders, as well as governmental and non-governmental
 partners, to explore viable solutions to the various impacts of climate change, and
 reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, with the support of the Secretariat,
 the Advisory Bodies and other partners, a comprehensive and inclusive long-term
 strategy to define the contribution that traditional construction techniques make to the
 OUV of this property, as well as an appropriate policy, guideline and awareness
 programme for existing and future construction in the property, addressing also the
 opportunities for the development and promotion of employment, in particular of young
 people, related to traditional construction techniques;
- 8. <u>Further notes</u> with appreciation that in response to flash foods due to heavy rainfall in September 2024, that had caused erosions of parts of the stone-paved walkway to the Hidi's Palace and damages on some terraced farms, immediate remedial action was taken by the local community and supported by the State Party, <u>further welcomes</u> that documentation of the stone-paved walkway as well as restoration work will be ensured as part of the 2024 US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation Grant, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with information on the implementation of these initiatives as soon as reports can be shared;
- 9. <u>Also reiterates its request</u> that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, already previously invited by the State Party, be carried out as soon as the necessary security clearance can be obtained in order to

assess the overall state of conservation of the property and to address the main issues identified above:

10. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

161. Memorial sites of the Genocide: Nyamata, Murambi, Gisozi and Bisesero (Rwanda)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

162. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

163. Fossil Hominid Sites of South Africa (South Africa)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

164. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

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

<u>Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> 2010-2023 Fire that resulted in the destruction of part of the property

<u>Previous Committee Decisions</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1998-2023) Total amount approved: USD 240,363

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 2011-2012: USD 68,365 from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for an Expert Appraisal Mission; 2013-2016 and 2019-2020: USD 650,000 from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the project: Technical and financial assistance for the reconstruction of Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga, an architectural masterpiece of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, Uganda, World Heritage property in Danger. 2017: USD 4,300 from the World Heritage Fund for ICOMOS advisory consultancy for the finalization of the elaboration of the Master Plan; USD 20 000 from Heritage Emergency Fund (HEF) for on-site training in preventing disasters and risk, USD 75 000 from the World Heritage Fund for firefighting equipment, USD 30,000 from the Heritage Emergency Fund and USD 100 000 from the

Norway Funds for preparation of Guidelines for the development of the Buffer zone aligned with the property's Master plan.

Previous monitoring missions

April 2010, August 2011, November 2011 and August 2013: World Heritage Centre mission; November 2010: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2012: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2015: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2023: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; since 2014, regular missions by UNESCO Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Destruction by fire of the Muzibu-Azaala-Mpanga (issue resolved)
- Ground transport infrastructure: Proposed widening of the Masiro Road
- Management systems/management plan: lack of a Master Plan and a complete Management Plan with detailed disaster risk management plan, a tourism management plan and buffer zone guidelines
- Management activities: Management structure (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2024, the State Party submitted an updated State of conservation report, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1022/documents/. It provides the following key information on conservation progress and challenges:

- The physical reconstruction of the main tomb building has now been fully finalised. The grass thatching process has been completed to the satisfaction of conservation experts, while interior restoration, including bark cloth cladding, reed partition walls, and ritual artefact conservation, has also been finished;
- Work on drafting definitive guidelines for the buffer zone has commenced, anchored by recommendations from a pilot project aimed at implementing the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL). Nevertheless, due to financial constraints and the complexity of stakeholder consultations, the process has been phased;
- Following Decision 45 COM 7A.25, the State Party has started integrating the Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP) into the property's overall Management Plan. Additionally, measures to strengthen firefighting infrastructure are ongoing, including the appointment of a dedicated engineer for continuous oversight of mechanical systems;
- The State Party has developed and begun implementing a Tourism Management Plan, aiming to ensure an enhanced visitor experience without compromising the property's cultural and spiritual values. This Plan, which will be embedded into the broader Master Plan, includes pilot studies on carrying capacity to inform policies regulating visitor flows;
- Efforts to harmonise all existing plans—Master Plan, Management Plan, DRMP, and forthcoming buffer zone guidelines—are well underway, as recommended by the Committee. The State Party also reports that capacity-building apply and restart programmes for local artisans and custodians have continued in an effort to sustain traditional knowledge systems integral to the conservation of tangible and intangible attributes of the property.

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

The State Party has demonstrated noteworthy dedication towards consolidating the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. In particular, the successful completion of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga reconstruction is commendable. This underlines the effort to preserve indigenous craftsmanship while reinforcing the property's cultural authenticity. Collaborative engagement between the Buganda Kingdom authorities, national agencies and local custodians is noted and has proven instrumental in ensuring that traditional building methods and intangible practices are maintained and passed on to future generations.

It is also pointed out that there are critical priorities that require continued focus. Chief among these is the prompt finalisation and formal adoption of the buffer zone guidelines, along with their effective integration into local planning regulations. This step is vital for safeguarding the property from encroachment, especially given the growing development pressures in Kampala and its environs. A phased approach to draft and implement the guidelines to accommodate the complexity of stakeholder consultation and accelerate progress to secure the immediate setting of the tombs and guarantee a coherent alignment with the Kampala Capital City Authority's broader framework is also commended.

The incorporation of the DRMP into the Management Plan, which necessitates steadfast attention, is also noted. By fully integrating fire prevention, climate adaptation and other safeguarding protocols, the DRMP can fortify the long-term resilience of the property. Once completed and adopted, it should also provide local and national authorities with a clear structure for emergency responses and proactive measures, thus offering robust protection to both tangible and intangible attributes of the tombs.

Furthermore, the development of a tourism management plan addressing visitor carrying capacity, with a view to integrating it in the property's management plan is praiseworthy. As domestic and international interest grows, maintaining a careful balance between heritage conservation and economic opportunity will be essential. By embedding tourism planning into the broader site management system, local communities can benefit financially while still respecting the property's traditional values. Effective visitor flow regulation, guided by reliable data and consultation with community stakeholders, can help avert excessive strain on heritage fabric and cultural practices.

Finally, the State Party's training initiatives for artisans and site custodians contribute substantially to ensuring the tombs' ongoing authenticity. Strengthening local knowledge of traditional construction and conservation techniques not only upholds cultural continuity but also deepens community involvement. These capacity-building measures incorporating also traditional transmission mechanisms should be encouraged further as they are expected to have a long-term positive impact, mitigating the risk of skill erosion and fostering broad-based heritage stewardship.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for its unwavering commitment to rehabilitating the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga and reinforcing vital traditions at Kasubi. Nonetheless, timely completion of the buffer zone guidelines, full integration of the DRMP, and ongoing training programmes remain central to preserving the integrity and authenticity of this sacred royal site. By sustaining these efforts – mainly through multi-stakeholder collaboration – Uganda can maintain the OUV of the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, securing its relevance for future generations.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.164

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7A.25, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Commends</u> the State Party for the finalisation of the reconstruction of the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga and continued commitment to train traditional custodial practices and strengthen transmission of the associated cultural knowledge;
- 4. <u>Notes</u> the ongoing development of the buffer zone guidelines, <u>also commends</u> the participatory approach being employed, and <u>reiterates</u> the importance of integrating these guidelines into binding local planning regulations in coordination with the Kampala Capital City Authority;
- 5. <u>Congratulates</u> the State Party, the Buganda Kingdom authorities, local communities, and all partners involved on the sustained commitment and achievements in preserving the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi, and <u>encourages</u> continued collaboration to ensure the effective protection and transmission of its attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) over the long term;
- 6. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to expedite the harmonisation and integration of the updated Disaster Risk Management Plan and the refined Tourism Management Plan, including

rigorous studies on carrying capacity, into the overall Management Plan, ensuring the allocation of sufficient human, financial, and material resources for their effective long-term implementation, and to submit the entire updated Management Plan, encompassing both integrated disaster risk management and tourism components, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

- 7. <u>Also requests</u> the State Party to pursue the final alignment of all relevant management instruments (including the Master Plan, Management Plan and buffer zone guidelines) so as to safeguard the property's OUV in an urban context, following the principles of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL);
- 8. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

ARAB STATES

165. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (ii)(v)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

<u>Previous Committee Decisions</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1993-2002) Total amount approved: USD 92,600

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 for an international experts' meeting on the safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers (Japanese funds-in-trust)

Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: World Heritage Centre expert mission; September 2002: World Heritage Centre mission for evaluating the State of Conservation. From October 2003 to November 2004: 3 World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of training and capacity building activities. From November 2007 to November 2009: Seven World Heritage Centre missions financed by the State Party for the Safeguarding Plan and the issue of the metro. May 2013: ICOMOS Advisory Mission for the development and beautification works in the city of Algiers. June 2015: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance: Lack of coordination of actions
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan: Non-operational safeguarding plan
- Local conditions affecting physical fabrics: Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system: Loss of traditional conversation techniques
- Society's valuing of heritage: Uncontrolled land use, lack of maintenance of dwelling places, change in the land use plan

<u>Illustrative material</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/

Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2024, the State Party submitted a detailed state of conservation report of the property, an executive summary of which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/documents/. The progress made in terms of conservation is presented below:

- In anticipation of the establishment of a single, autonomous decision-making and management structure, a joint committee of the Ministry of Culture and the Arts and the Wilaya of Algiers has been set up to manage the Kasbah and the various revitalisation projects under way;
- Through this intersectoral cooperation, the State Party continues to monitor the state of conservation of property in order to prevent violations and the risk of collapse. In particular, emergency measures have been planned for 25 severely deteriorated buildings. Thirty other severely deteriorated buildings have been reported to the relevant services in the Wilaya of Algiers. Progress has been made in completing the rehabilitation of networks (drinking water,

sewerage, electricity, telecommunications), roads and the development of a tourist trail and public spaces:

- Implementation of the Permanent Plan for the Safeguarding and Valorisation of the Safeguarded Sector (PPSMVSS) is continuing. The State Party has made progress in the restoration of numerous public and private buildings, including the citadel of Algiers, several palaces, mosques and schools, and in the conversion of several monuments into museums, interpretation centres and craft galleries. Studies are currently being finalised to extend these restoration efforts to the habitat:
- Carried out in consultation with residents, the socio-economic and cultural revitalisation of the site
 is progressing, with the development of tourist trails and the creation of 43 commercial and
 recreational premises under the Place des Martyrs, reconnecting the site to the sea and
 integrating it into the overall development of Algiers;
- A study day was organised with the participation of the various players involved, focusing on the implementation of the strategy centred on the historic urban landscape for the property, addressing the climatic and anthropic challenges, the revaluation of traditional techniques and the use of new technologies;
- Numerous cultural events, educational workshops, activities to raise awareness among young people and to promote the tangible and intangible cultural heritage have been organised to revitalise the site, as well as a 'Kasbah Day'. A conference on the protection of underwater cultural heritage was also held.

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

The report confirms the positive dynamic, observed since 2023, which has been put in place by the Wilaya of Algiers and the Ministry of Culture and the Arts to ensure comprehensive, integrated and coordinated conservation of the property. These efforts take the form of a series of actions, such as the restoration of historic and residential buildings, the improvement of urban infrastructures and the development of tourism, as well as the organisation and promotion of socio-cultural events actively involving civil society and young people in particular. The State Party's ongoing efforts to preserve and enhance the property are to be commended.

In view of the large number of projects underway in and around the property, the State Party should be invited to inform the World Heritage Centre, in a timely manner, of any major restoration or construction project that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and before any irreversible decision is taken, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Indeed, some of the most ambitious projects, such as the creation of an architectural extension adjoining the Ali Betchine Mosque, or even projects located outside the World Heritage property, such as the redevelopment of the waterfront, could benefit from an impact assessment to support the planning process and ensure that any potential negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is avoided. All the major projects underway in and around the property could also benefit from a strategic assessment to ensure that potential cumulative impacts are also anticipated.

However, a sustained effort is still needed to restore many buildings that are in an advanced state of disrepair. Furthermore, the report does not specify whether the exhaustive inventory of the state of conservation of the properties has been finalised, which limits the possibility of establishing a complete diagnosis of the situation. The State Party is requested to continue, as a matter of priority, to maintain stable conservation conditions throughout the property.

It is also recommended that the State Party be invited again to submit the revised PPSMVSS to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and in particular to ensure that the plan incorporates an appropriate planning strategy capable of halting the evolving degradation of the urban fabric and promoting the sustainable revitalisation of the traditional trade and craft sectors, on the basis of up-to-date socio-economic data, including analysis of demographics, social composition, housing conditions and activities on the site, particularly in the commercial and craft areas.

The operational implementation of a single, autonomous governance structure with high-level decision-making powers, as recommended in previous recommendations, remains a priority that has not yet been adopted. Such a structure would make it possible to effectively coordinate initiatives, ensure the integration of socio-economic data into action plans and steer the multi-sector development of the site in a coherent way that is integrated into the development of the city of Algiers.

Given the continued positive momentum for the conservation of the property, and the time required for the State Party to make progress on the issues addressed and institutionalise the single management structure for the property, it is suggested to request the submission of a state of conservation report in December 2027.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.165

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.135 adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Takes note</u> of the continuous efforts made by the State Party for a global, integrated and coordinated conservation of the property, through a series of actions contributing to its revitalisation, such as the restoration of buildings, the improvement of infrastructure and the development of a tourist trail, as well as the organisation of socio-cultural events actively involving civil society, and <u>encourages</u> it to continue its efforts to ensure the conservation of the property;
- 4. <u>Nevertheless reminds</u> the State Party of the need to inform the World Heritage Centre of any major restoration or construction project that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before any irreversible decision is taken, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and when necessary, to carry out impact assessments, in accordance with the new Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
- 5. <u>Remains concerned</u> about the identification of a further 30 buildings in an advanced state of deterioration, <u>requests</u> the State Party to complete the inventory of the state of conservation of the building properties to enable a full diagnosis of the property;
- 6. <u>Also requests</u> the State Party to submit the revised version of the Permanent Plan for the Safeguarding and Valorisation of the Safeguarded Sector (PPSMVSS) to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in particular to assess its capacity to halt the deterioration of the urban fabric and promote the sustainable revitalisation of the traditional trade and craft sectors:
- 7. <u>Acknowledging</u> the positive results of the cross-sectoral consultation process that has been initiated, it <u>nevertheless reiterates its encouragement</u> to make this approach permanent by putting in place, in an operational manner, a coordination structure with high-level decision-making authority, which will in particular be able to ensure the integration of socio-economic data into the action plans and steer the multi-sectoral development of the site in a way that is coherent and integrated with the development of the city of Algiers;
- 8. <u>Considering</u> the positive dynamics in place for the conservation of the property and the time required for the State Party to implement the above-mentioned requests, <u>finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2027**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

166. Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/87/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2001) Total amount approved: USD 7,000

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/87/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,131,000 from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust, 2002-2004 and 2008 (wall paintings restoration in the tomb of Amenophis III), and USD 400,000 in 2023 for Phase 3 of the conservation of wall paintings of the royal tomb of Amenhotep III; Special Account for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Egypt: USD 931,674 for 'Hassan Fathy New Gourna', and USD 310,381 for 'Memphis and Thebes Sites Management Support'; Euro 150,000 from the Government of France for Enhancing Capacities for the Protection of World Heritage Properties in Egypt (2020).

Previous monitoring missions

2001: ICOMOS mission; 2002: hydrology expert mission; July 2006 and May 2007: World Heritage Centre missions; April 2008, May 2009 and April 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; January/February 2021 UNESCO Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Deliberate destruction of heritage (Demolitions in the villages of Gourna on the West Bank of the Nile and transfer of the population)
- Flooding: Risks of flooding (Valleys of Kings and Queens)
- Housing and agricultural encroachment on the West Bank of the Nile
- Human resources: Limited available technical and human resources
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation: Absence of strategy to manage and control tourism sustainably
- Lack of a Conservation Plan for the property
- Major infrastructure and development projects taking place or scheduled
- Management Activities
- Management systems/management plan: Absence of a comprehensive Management Plan
- Natural decay and structural problems
- Neglect of important modern heritage, namely Hassan Fathy's buildings in New Gourna
- Uncontrolled urban development
- Water (rain/water table): Rising underground water level

<u>Illustrative material</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/87/

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/87/documents/. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

• The Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) intends to prepare an integrated Management Plan for the property, in collaboration with the Korean National University of Heritage, through 'The Capacity Enhancement for the Development of Sustainable Cultural Heritage Tourism Resources in Luxor, Egypt' project, funded by the 'Korean Development Assistance Program';

- Proposed projects within or surrounding Egyptian World Heritage properties require Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), which will be submitted to the Word Heritage Centre;
- An HIA and other documentation have been submitted for the "The Second Line High Speed Railway Project (Blue Line, 6th of October - Abu Simbel)". The recommendations from the ICOMOS Technical Review in June 2024 will be included in the amended study about this project, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Archaeological excavation and restoration works continue and details of recent discoveries and a list of projects at the property during 2023-2024 have been provided;
- Training programs and workshops about site management and conservation were organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) in cooperation with the UNESCO Cairo Office and other organizations to raise awareness and build capacity for World Heritage specialists;
- MoTA has instigated the 'Integrated Management of Cultural Tourism' project in collaboration with
 the United States Agency for International Development, focusing on potential rehabilitation and
 reuse of historical buildings and preparing a strategic framework for public-private partnerships in
 cultural tourism in Egypt. The project entailed a series of workshops to discuss opportunities for
 investment in Historic Cairo and Luxor;
- The State Party would welcome a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission;
- The retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for the property was adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2023 by Decision **45 COM 8E**.

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

The State Party has continued its focus on compliance with the requirements and processes of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines. Several excavation and conservation activities have been executed, including the project 'Conservation of Wall Paintings of the Royal Tomb of AMENHOTEP III - KV22, Egypt (Phase 3)', supported by the UNESCO/Japan Funds in Trust, and implemented by the UNESCO Regional Office for Egypt and Sudan, in Cairo.

The Integrated Management Plan (IMP) will be critical to future conservation and management of the property. As requested by the Committee in Decision **45 COM 7B.136**, the IMP should address risk preparedness and sustainable tourism, and should be reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies prior to being formally adopted. The State Party has previously committed to implementation of the recommendations of the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2021 UNESCO Advisory mission.

The ICOMOS Technical Review of the Second Line High Speed Railway Project (Blue Line, 6th of October - Abu Simbel) concluded that no further detailed mitigation measures were needed for the construction of Blue Line in relation to the property, but advised that the potential impact of the train line on tourism and management should be considered. The 'Integrated Management of Cultural Tourism' project being undertaken in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development, which is addressing rehabilitation and reuse of historical buildings and developing a strategic framework for public-private partnerships in cultural tourism in Egypt, is welcome. The Committee may wish to request that future projects arising from this partnership and the proposed strategic framework for public-private partnerships in cultural tourism in Egypt be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The Committee has previously requested that the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the property's state of conservation, assess implementation of the recommendations from the 2017 and 2021 missions, review ongoing and planned projects and assess how they may affect the property's OUV. It would be appropriate to reiterate this request, noting that the State Party has indicated that it would welcome such a mission. The State Party has previously submitted extensive information regarding significant projects, including the lighting and security cameras project, the underground water project, works at the Temple of the Apt, the Temple of Medinet Habu, the Ramesseum, the Temple of Seti, the disabled access project at Karnak, and the Flood Emergency Plan for the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens. These projects, and the related documentation which has been provided, should be reviewed by the proposed Reactive Monitoring mission.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.166

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **45 COM 7B.136** and **45 COM 8E**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Commends</u> the State Party on the continuing progress made in compliance with the requirements and processes of the World Heritage Convention and Operational Guidelines, including the requirement for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for all projects within or surrounding the property, and the preparation of an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property, and reiterates its previous requests that the IMP should address risk preparedness and sustainable tourism, and that its draft be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to being adopted and implemented;
- 4. <u>Notes</u> the updated documentation that has been prepared for the Second Line High Speed Railway Project (Blue Line, 6th of October Abu Simbel) and that the recommendations from the ICOMOS Technical Review in June 2024 will be included in an amended study, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for further review:
- 5. <u>Requests</u> the State Party to provide updated advice regarding implementation of the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission and 2021 Advisory mission;
- 6. <u>Welcomes</u> the information provided on the 'Integrated Management of Cultural Tourism' project being undertaken in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development, focusing on potential rehabilitation and reuse of historical buildings, and <u>also requests</u> the State Party to continue to submit information on specific projects arising from this partnership and to submit the proposed strategic framework for public-private partnerships in cultural tourism in Egypt for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 7. Recalling that the State Party would welcome a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to evaluate the property's state of conservation, assess implementation of the recommendations from the 2017 and 2021 missions, review ongoing and planned projects and assess how they may affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value, <u>further requests</u> the State Party that this mission be invited and arranged in time for consideration of its findings at the 49th session of the Committee;
- 8. <u>Notes</u> that the State Party has previously submitted extensive information regarding the lighting and security cameras project, the underground water project, works at the Temple of the Apt, the Temple of Medinet Habu, the Ramesseum, the Temple of Seti, the disabled access project at Karnak, and the Flood Emergency Plan for the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens, and <u>requests furthermore</u> that these projects and the related documentation be reviewed by the proposed Reactive Monitoring mission;
- 9. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

167. Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

168 Saint Catherine Area (Egypt)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

169 Babylon (Iraq)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (iii)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Two missions to Babylon for the preparation of the "Final Report on Damage Assessment in Babylon", by the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Iraq – Sub-Committee on Babylon (2008-2009)

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management system/ management plan: Lack of a comprehensive conservation plan for the property, including a priority intervention scheme for the most urgent conservation measures needed
- Management systems/ management plan: Need to augment the management plan to include the comprehensive conservation plan
- Need to research the relationships between the Neo-Babylonian capital and its wider landscape as the basis for consideration of further extension of the buffer zone to address challenges in the setting
- Interpretative and visitation facilities: Need to better communicate to visitors the revised boundary concept and the explicit exclusion of 20th century additions from the property

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/

Current conservation issues

On 10 October 2024, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/documents/. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in the report, as follows:

- Priority actions were undertaken to address site safety and protection. This includes infrastructure rehabilitation, placing road signage, allocating funds to acquire land within the property, actions to reduce encroachment and address trespassers, and engagement with residents. Additionally, capacity-building initiatives were conducted for staff, local police, and guides to enhance visitor experience and strengthen site protection;
- The 'Information Centre' has been rehabilitated to provide comprehensive information about the property;
- Conservation work continued by the World Monument Fund (WMF) at sites identified with the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH):
 - At Ishtar Gate, work focused on repair, improving rainwater flow away from structures, and brick replacement. At Ishtar Temple, data collection was completed, while documentation, reinforcements, cleaning of vegetation, and improving rainwater flow was pursued. At Ninmakh Temple, work focused on removal of mud mortar to distinguish original parts, damage documentation, repair, preparation of mixtures for producing compatible brick, laying mud mortar for walls, preparing wooden moulds for arches, and staff training. At Nabu-sha-Khare Temple, work included data collection, documentation, reinforcement, cleaning of vegetation, and improving rainwater flow,
 - Restoration work was completed at the 'Lion of Babylon' and surrounding area, as well as the cylindrical tower (north of Ishtar Gate). Works at the inner wall west of Ishtar Gate included data collection, documentation, cleaning of vegetation, improving rainwater flow, reinforcement, and maintenance;
- The identified factors affecting buildings on the property include poor drainage, moisture, salt (efflorescence and crystallization), rain, wind, incompatible and poor-quality restoration, lack of regular maintenance, and vegetation;
- If cooperation is established, a team of international experts, in collaboration with WMF, will survey Babylon and its surroundings to enhance knowledge of the inner and outer city areas;
- Three projects will be undertaken, which include developing studies and designs for converting the Presidential Palace (Saddam Palace) into a museum, rehabilitation of the electrical network, and rehabilitation of the tourist lake area.

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

The State Party report emphasizes the commitment to maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Factors affecting the archaeological remains at the property have been identified, and a range of actions have been undertaken, notably in conservation, infrastructure rehabilitation, site management, visitor service improvements, and addressing encroachment issues. Nevertheless, the need for establishing a comprehensive conservation plan remains a priority.

In its previous decisions, the Committee emphasized its concern for the state of conservation of the property and determined that the absence of a coordinated, programmed conservation approach with urgent priority interventions constituted an ascertained danger to its OUV. Considering that there has not been reported progress in the preparation of a conservation plan, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to initiate the development of such a comprehensive plan, and to submit it as part of an augmented Management Plan, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption.

In its report, the State Party has expressed its intention to have further archaeological surveys within the property and its buffer zone and has pursued potential cooperation in this regard. The Committee may wish to reiterate the importance of this research as the basis for consideration of an extension of the buffer zone to address actual and potential future challenges to the integrity of the wider setting of the city. The Committee may also wish to reiterate its request that the management of the 20th century constructions located in the buffer zone on top of archaeological remains in the property, as presented by the three-dimensional buffer zone, would be critical to the preservation of the fragile condition of integrity, and that the three-dimensional boundary concept be communicated to visitors.

In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party has indicated that three projects will be undertaken, including the preparation of studies and design for converting the Presidential Palace (Saddam Palace) into a museum, rehabilitation of the electrical network, and rehabilitation of the tourist lake area. It would be important to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for

review by the Advisory Bodies, full detailed information, including Heritage Impact Assessment, for all such projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.169

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
- 2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.139** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Takes note</u> of the progress made by the State Party in continuing conservation activities and in augmenting the management and presentation of the property;
- 4. <u>Reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to continue working on the issues noted by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, including by:
 - a) Developing and finalizing the comprehensive conservation plan for the property, and within this, addressing the various risk factors that have been identified. This includes proposing concrete measures towards effective risk reduction and mitigation, as well as the establishment of a priority intervention scheme for the most urgent conservation measures needed and a programme of periodic maintenance procedures,
 - b) Augmenting the Management Plan to include the comprehensive conservation plan, to allow the management team to focus on priority, emergency interventions, and providing detailed implementation-oriented guidance as well as quality indicators for its successful implementation,
 - c) Researching further the relationships between the Neo-Babylonian capital and its wider landscape, in particular towards the Euphrates River, and based on the outcomes of this research, consider further extending the buffer zone in order to address actual and potential future challenges, which can be identified in the wider setting of the archaeological city,
 - d) Communicating to visitors the three-dimensional boundary concept and the explicit exclusion of 20th century additions from the property;
- 5. <u>Acknowledging</u> the information provided in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, which mentions the planned projects, comprising the preparation of studies and design for converting the Presidential Palace into a museum, rehabilitation of the electrical network, and rehabilitation of the tourist lake area, <u>requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, full detailed information including Heritage Impact Assessments, for all such projects that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
- 6. <u>Welcomes</u> the willingness of the State Party to host as soon as possible a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to assist the State Party in developing a phased and costed action plan for the conservation of the property;
- 7. <u>Finally requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the

implementation 49th session.	of the a	above,	for exa	mination	by the	World	Heritage	Committee	at its

170. Baptism Site "Bethany Beyond the Jordan" (Al-Maghtas) (Jordan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

171. Petra (Jordan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

172. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

174. Baalbek (Lebanon)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

175. Byblos (Lebanon)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

176. Tyre (Lebanon)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

177. Medina of Essaouira (formerly Mogador) (Morocco)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2

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See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2