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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 7A of the Provisional Agenda:
State of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Summary

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee. This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/47COM/documents

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

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

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

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NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

3. Everglades National Park (United States of America)

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5

AFRICA

14. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2010-present

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

Illegal logging of precious wood species (ebony and rosewood) and its secondary impacts; poaching of endangered lemurs were identified as threats for the site's integrity

<u>Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger</u> Adopted, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344

Corrective measures identified

Adopted, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures Adopted, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4344

<u>Previous Committee Decisions</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2021) Total amount approved: USD 155,000

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,890,000 from the United Nations Foundation and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation; USD 1,039,000 from the Government of Norway (2014-2016)

Previous monitoring missions

May 2011, September-October 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions, March 2025: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission, with the participation of the CITES Secretariat

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Encroachment
- Fire
- Hunting and poaching of endangered species, including lemurs
- Artisanal mining
- Illegal logging of precious wood species (ebony and rosewood)
- Weak governance and law enforcement to prevent the illegal logging end export of precious wood species
- Need to strengthen the engagement of and benefit-sharing with local communities

<u>Illustrative material</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/

Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2025, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/.

The complete report contains the following information:

- An action plan for the implementation of corrective measures was developed during the capacitybuilding workshop in April 2024 in Nairobi and was officially submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre.
- In 2024, the deforestation rate was 0.06%, a decrease from previous years (0.7% in 2022), thanks to greater monitoring efforts, mainly using satellite imagery and drones, as well as support for local development.
- The development and management plans for each of the six components of the property could not be finalised in 2024 (except for the Masoala plan) due to a complication related to the procurement procedure, but will be available in June 2025.
- In 2024, 207 lemur traps were recorded. According to the State Party, this number, which is much higher than in previous years, is due to the consumption of meat by local communities, due to poverty and a lack of protein sources. The worsening drought and the election period both combined to bring about this increase in the number of traps recorded in 2024.
- Progress has been made in implementing the decisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) concerning ebony (*Diospyros spp.*), palisander and rosewood (*Dalbergia spp.*). Systematic monitoring on the ground using SMART software no longer reports any new logging of these woods. This was acknowledged by CITES during its online meeting of October 2024 with the World Heritage Centre (WHC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), where it commended Madagascar for its efforts in combating this trafficking, as no major trafficking has been recorded since 2014-2016. The seized rosewood and ebony was inventoried in 2014-2016. The inventory report can be obtained from the Secretariat of CITES (www.cites.org). Since then, no major national or international trafficking has been detected.
- In 2019, Madagascar informed CITES that it wanted to focus on managing seized stocks under government control for domestic use, particularly for infrastructure construction, restoration of public buildings (museums, supplies for schools, etc.) and craftsmanship. Disposal of stocks will be based on the national absorption capacity. No commercial exports are envisaged.
- An inventory, marking and traceability (with a real-time database) and control system is being
 implemented in two pilot regions: MENABE and BOENY. The results of this project were reported
 to the 78th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and to the advisory group tasked with
 assisting Madagascar.

The State Party invited a joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, with the participation of the CITES Secretariat, to assess the progress of the implementation of corrective measures. The mission took place on 10-17 March 2025, and the report is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1257/documents/.

On 3 July 2025, the State Party submitted a letter announcing its commitment to fully implement the recommendations of the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission, accompanied by an annex detailing the approach to the implementation of each of these recommendations.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The March 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission noted with satisfaction that the State Party has made significant efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property, particularly through the effective implementation of various recommendations and some corrective measures resulting from the 2011 and 2015 missions, as well as by achieving significant progress towards the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) indicators. These include three indicators out of the four adopted in 2011, namely: halting the logging and illegal trafficking of precious woods (rosewood and ebony), as well as authorised exports of all species of *Dalbergia spp.* and *Diospyros spp.*, relatively little evidence of lemur poaching and the significant restoration of heavily cleared areas within the property.

Illegal exploitation and trafficking of precious woods (rosewood and ebony), as well as authorised exports of all species of *Dalbergia spp.* (rosewood and palisander) and *Diospyros spp.* (ebony), ceased at least ten years ago (2015/2016). Efforts to combat the exploitation and trading of precious woods have been strengthened by the adoption and enforcement of several regulatory texts and an effective inventory, classification and marking system for seized wood, which has been tested in two regions. However, the mission observed that palisander logging and trading have continued within the country

to date. In 2024, using the SMART approach, patrols documented a total of 86 rosewood stumps throughout the property, showing a progressively reduced incidence rate compared to 2020. The State Party is already planning new measures such as scaling up the inventory system and strengthening enforcement. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to strengthen enforcement measures and improve monitoring.

Independent deforestation monitoring indicates an increase in the annual deforestation rate in three components of the property since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2007, to an average rate of 0.25% in 2024. This rate significantly exceeds the 0.01% threshold adopted in the DSOCR, which would correspond to 42 hectares of clearing each year across the entire property (497,660 hectares), a target that the mission regards as too ambitious in the context of Madagascar. Consequently, the mission considers that a more realistic objective would be to keep the annual deforestation rate of each component below 0.25%. However, the 2024 data show that two out of the six components significantly exceed this threshold. In particular, the deforestation rates observed in Marojejy (0.32%) and Andohahela (0.74%) have increased significantly, which is still a cause of concern. Regarding Masoala, the deforestation rate, after decreasing from 0.35% to 0.12% between 2017 and 2020, has been rising again since 2022, reaching 0.20% in 2024. Although this satisfactory threshold is below the 0.25% recommended by the mission, the upward trend is nevertheless concerning for this area, which represents almost half (44.38%) of the property's total area. The mission also notes that the deforestation observed so far is still mainly concentrated in cleared areas on the periphery of the six protected areas that make up the property.

Noting that the 2024 State Party report shows an increase in the number of lemur traps in each component of the property, the mission found that the lemur trap observation index per km travelled is decreasing, according to the SMART tool (with an average of three traps per 1,000 km patrolled in 2024). This observation, as well as the evidence on lemur populations discussed in the mission report, leads the mission team to conclude that the current trapping rate is not having a major impact on the OUV of the property, despite the decline of some species recorded in 2024, including *Eulemur cinereiceps*, *Eulemur collaris*, and *Varecia rubra*. Nevertheless, the mission encourages the State Party to maintain its monitoring and awareness-raising efforts and the promotion of alternative protein sources for local populations, with a specific focus on Zahamena, where the incidence of trap sightings has recently increased.

The mission also noted that gold mining in Ranomafana and gemstone mining in Zahamena are not yet under control, but that actions are planned to address them. In fact, the State Party has submitted, together with the 2024 state of conservation report, the management strategy for the Ranomafana gold mining operation (2024-2028). In addition, an international assistance request submitted by the State Party was approved in May 2025 by the Chair of the World Heritage Committee, to strengthen the fight against illegal gold mining in the property, through increased surveillance of sensitive areas, concerted management of gold mining activities, and close collaboration with local and regional stakeholders for participatory and sustainable governance of the property. Recalling the Committee's position on the incompatibility of mining with World Heritage status, it is recommended that the State Party ensure that all mining within the property and its buffer zone is halted and that the developed strategy is implemented as soon as possible, in accordance with appropriate international standards.

The information gathered by the mission shows that the state of conservation of the property has significantly improved since the last mission in 2015. The mission concluded that the OUV of the property, as established at the time of its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2007, on the basis of criteria (ix) and (x), is still present and that the property also fulfils the conditions of integrity required by the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention.

In conclusion, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN welcome the significant progress made by the State Party and its partners in implementing the corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). In accordance with the mission's findings, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the property can be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger, following the State Party's commitment to fully implement the recommendations made in the mission report.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.14

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.4,
- 2. Recalling Decision 46 COM.7A.52, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
- 3. <u>Takes note</u> of the results of the joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, with the participation of the CITES Secretariat, as well as the positive efforts made by the State Party and its partners to improve the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of several corrective measures resulting from the 2011 and 2015 missions, and in particular the remarkable progress made in achieving the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
- 4. Welcomes with satisfaction the halting of the exploitation and export of precious woods (rosewood, ebony) for the last ten years, the decrease in signs of lemur poaching and the restoration of heavily cleared areas, which contribute significantly to maintaining the integrity and outstanding universal value of the property, and encourages the State Party to pursue this positive trend;
- 5. <u>Notes, however</u> that the exploitation of palisander continues within the country to date, which could jeopardise the gains made in combating the exploitation of precious woods in general in Madagascar, particularly rosewood and ebony;
- 6. Notes with concern that the average deforestation rate in 2024 in all components of the property was 0.25%, well above the rate at the time of the property's inscription on the World Heritage List, regrets that deforestation exceeds this rate in two components, notably Andohahela and Marojejy, with an increase in Masoala since 2020, and stresses that it is essential that the deforestation rate be kept below 0.25% in all components of the property, with a trend towards a gradual cessation of deforestation, in accordance with the impact levels observed at the time of the property's inscription on the World Heritage List, with particular attention to Andohahela, Marojejy, and Masoala;
- 7. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the relatively few signs of poaching and the increase in sightings of the majority of lemur populations in the property, and is nevertheless <u>concerned</u> about the reported decrease in sightings of some species in 2024, notably Eulemur cinereiceps, Eulemur collaris and Varecia rubra;
- 8. <u>Notes with the greatest concern</u> that gold mining in Ranomafana and gemstone mining in Zahamena is not yet under control, <u>also takes note</u> of the submission by the State Party, together with the 2024 state of conservation report, of the management strategy for the Ranomafana gold mining operation (2024-2028), and <u>recalls</u> the Committee's position on the incompatibility of mining with World Heritage status;
- 9. <u>Noting</u> the commitment of the State Party to implement all the recommendations made by the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission, <u>considers</u> that the property can be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
- 10. <u>Decides</u> to remove the Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- 11. <u>Requests</u> in particular the State Party to implement all the recommendations made by the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission, namely:

- a) Strengthen all efforts to reduce deforestation rates, paying particular attention to Andohahela and Marojejy, in order to maintain rates in each component of the property below 0.25% over the next three years, including through drone surveillance and satellite alerts, patrols with AGPs, CLPs and mixed brigades, and any other effective means available or to be explored.
- b) Ensure that the lemur trap observation index per km travelled in each component of the property is maintained at fewer than five traps per 1,000 km at least over the next three years.
- c) Continue to restore all degraded areas of the components of the property, ensuring monitoring and assessment of the results of active and passive approaches in order to develop the most appropriate and effective restoration plans.
- d) Implement a "zero export quota" for Dalbergia spp. (rosewood and palisander) and Diospyros spp. (ebony) and notify this quota to the World Heritage Centre and the CITES Secretariat,
- e) Urgently implement the management strategy for the Ranomafana gold mining operation (2024-2028), and ensure that all mining within the property and its buffer zone is halted, in accordance with the position of the World Heritage Committee,
- f) Finalise the individual management plans for the five components as soon as possible and submit the Integrated Management Plan for the entire property to the World Heritage Centre,
- g) Submit to the World Heritage Centre, for evaluation by IUCN before any decision is taken, the social and environmental impact studies undertaken for all the above road projects, in order to avoid impacts on the OUV of the property, including an update of the social and environmental impact study for the new route of the Antananarivo-Toamasina road, which passes by Zahamena;
- 12. <u>Finally Requests</u> the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

26. The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2023

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

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

War

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

Corrective measures identified

Not yet identified

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Not yet identified

<u>Previous Committee Decisions</u> see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1703/documents/

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1703/assistance/

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

- UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Emergency response for World Heritage and cultural property: damage assessment and protection' (USD 4,065,000 in 2023), from which Odesa partly benefited
- UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Preserving cultural heritage in Ukraine: Reinforcing monitoring, emergency response and preparedness at damaged cultural and natural heritage sites in Ukraine, including the World Heritage property 'The Historic Centre of Odesa' (USD 5,899,270 in 2024), from which Odesa partly benefited
- UNESCO-Italy Funds-in-Trust project 'Urgent provision of a protective roof for the Transfiguration Cathedral': USD 530,000 (2024)
- Heritage Emergency Fund: USD 418,032 (2023-2024)
- Foundation of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière: USD 192,600 (2024)
- World Heritage Fund (budget line for properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger): USD 30,000 (2024)

Previous monitoring missions

February 2025: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- War
- Legal framework
- Management systems / management plan

• Buffer zone

Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1703/

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2025, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1703/documents/. The report addresses the issues raised by the Committee in its Decisions 18 EXT.COM 5.2 and 46 COM 7A.6 as follows:

- A request for Minor Boundary Modification aimed at extending the buffer zone has been prepared;
- Efforts have continued to strengthen the legal protection of the property, and to enhance the mechanisms for safeguarding the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- The main threat to the property remains the ongoing war. In 2024, three large-scale attacks
 occurred within the property, resulting in damage of varying severity to numerous buildings. City
 services undertook extensive work to record the damage and implement emergency interventions
 on the affected historic buildings;
- Other identified challenges include gaps in the legal framework, limited financial resources, and a lack of clarity regarding the attributes that convey the property's OUV;
- With funding provided by Japan, and in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, work has commenced on the revision of the property's Management Plan and the integration of an Emergency Response Plan, as well as on the development of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), together with a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation. A revised draft Management Plan is expected to be completed by June 2025;
- In 2024, the active phase of the project 'Support to the Implementation of the Odesa Cultural Development Strategy', funded by the European Union, was launched. It resulted in the development of three key documents, entitled 'Odesa Cultural Development Strategy 2025-2035', 'Handbook for the Preservation of Odesa's Cultural Heritage' and 'Guidelines for the Arrangement of Good Odesa Signage'.

In 2024, the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict decided to grant provisional Enhanced Protection to the cultural property 'Odesa Literary Museum' (Ukraine) and adopted a Statement of its Provisional Inclusion in the UNESCO International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection. The museum is located within the boundaries of the World Heritage property. In addition, the Committee took note of the clarification of the boundaries and areas of three cultural properties in Odesa that had previously been inscribed under provisional Enhanced Protection: 'Research Institute (RI) Astronomical Observatory of Odesa National Museum', 'Odesa National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre' and 'Odesa Regional Philharmonic named after David Oistrakh'.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place from 10 to 14 February 2025. Its purpose was to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and factors and conservation issues that impact on its OUV and to evaluate progress made by the State Party in implementing the Committee's recommendations made at the time of inscription. The mission report will be available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1703/documents/.

Actions implemented by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist the State Party

UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies continue to work closely with the Ukrainian authorities and international partners to protect Ukraine's cultural heritage amidst the ongoing full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation. This support is provided through UNESCO's Emergency Assistance Programme and the Action Plan for Culture in Ukraine, developed in collaboration with over 40 partners, including the Ministry of Culture and Strategic Communications (MCSC), ICOMOS and ICCROM. This plan was endorsed at the International Conference 'Towards the Recovery of the Culture Sector of Ukraine' in Vilnius (Lithuania) in June 2024.

In partnership with UNITAR/UNOSAT, UNESCO has been conducting daily monitoring and documentation of war-related damage to cultural sites. Satellite monitoring is complemented by on-site assessments of damaged properties. Following the large-scale attacks on the Historic Centre of Odesa on 14-15 November 2024, 31 January 2025 and 17 June 2025, technical damage assessment missions led by the UNESCO Antenna in Kyiv were swiftly deployed. On the night of 14–15 November 2024,

19 cultural heritage buildings within the World Heritage property and two outside its boundaries sustained damage. An international expert, alongside the UNESCO Antenna in Kyiv, visited three affected buildings on 16 November 2024, with further on-site assessment carried out on 17 November 2024. A report classifying damage to the 19 buildings was sent to the City Council on 27 January 2025. On 31 January 2025, damage was reported to 23 historic buildings. Between 7 and 9 February 2025, the UNESCO Antenna in Kyiv and an international expert conducted a preliminary assessment, including of the Odesa Regional Philharmonic named after David Oistrakh, which is provisionally listed under Enhanced Protection.

Through the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project 'Emergency response for World Heritage and cultural property: damage assessment and protection', UNESCO, ICOMOS and ICCROM are assisting Ukraine with a methodology for on-site damage and risk assessment of immovable cultural property. The project also provides training in emergency preparedness, first aid for cultural property and risk reduction. Four workshops were held in late 2024 and early 2025, with 22 Ukrainian professionals attending, including members of the MCSC's Recovery Support Unit and from the City Council of Odesa.

Additionally, 17 cultural heritage professionals were trained on post-event damage and risk assessment during a two-day field exercise in Kyiv in August 2024, which included a heritage specialist from the City Council of Odesa.

UNESCO continues to provide technical assistance to strengthen the MCSC's capacity for recovery planning by supporting the Recovery Support Unit, established in mid-2024. This unit provides support to national and regional stakeholders and contributed to the development of the National Strategy for Cultural Development 2025-2030.

In addition, UNESCO is assisting Ukraine in strengthening its legal framework for cultural heritage protection. In partnership with a Ukrainian non-governmental organisation, a review of the existing legal framework has been undertaken to ensure alignment with international standards. An analytical study identified key gaps, resulting in two priority draft laws: one concerning the Implementation of Directive 2014/60/EU on the Return of Cultural Objects, and another addressing the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. A roadmap for further legal reforms is being developed to guide both shortand long-term improvements.

Specific support has been provided to the World Heritage property 'The Historic Centre of Odesa' as follows: (i) under the UNESCO-Italy Funds-in-Trust project 'Urgent provision of a protective roof for the Transfiguration Cathedral in Odesa', the repair of 115 sqm of the permanent roof of the cathedral, damaged by a missile strike in July 2023, was competed in October 2024; support has also been provided to the repair of the ceiling and the heating system; (ii) under the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust projects, the installation of temporary ventilation systems in the Odesa House of Scientists and the Odesa Fine Arts Museum is currently being implemented, to be completed by the end of July 2025. Under the latter, ICOMOS and UNESCO have designed a technical assistance programme, to support the revision of the Draft Management Plan, including the integration of an Emergency Preparedness Plan, in line with previous Committee requests, and the development of the Desired state of conservation for removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), along with a set of corrective measures. The initiative builds upon a series of online workshops conducted between December 2024 and May 2025, engaging key stakeholders including the MCSC, as well as two on-site missions carried out in February and June 2025.

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

The damage sustained by individual historic buildings and the urban fabric within the property, alongside the escalating threats resulting from ongoing war and intensified missile and drone attacks on the city of Odesa, are of utmost concern. During the large-scale attacks on the historic centre of Odesa on 14-15 November 2024, 31 January 2025, and 17 June 2025, a number of historic buildings within the property incurred varying degrees of damage.

The State Party is to be commended for its continued commitment to the protection of the attributes conveying the OUV of the property, including through the prompt implementation of emergency interventions on historic buildings following attacks.

The February 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property concluded that the state of conservation of the property remains critical, primarily due to the ongoing war. This situation exacerbates the challenges faced by the State Party, and the City of Odesa in particular, in securing adequate level of protection for its cultural heritage. These difficulties are further

compounded by complex historical context and systemic transformations, leading to a complicated ownership landscape, prolonged insufficient maintenance, and a limited recognition of the heritage resource. Additionally, the existing formal protection measures provide insufficient safeguards, permitting significant alterations to the city's historic fabric. This is combined with a lack of human resources and financial difficulties. Against this backdrop, the mission formulated a list of recommendations intended to support the State Party's efforts, at different government levels, to enhance the protection and management of the property under the current circumstances. While their implementation will take time and resources, it is recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to start this work by defining an action plan for their implementation, including priorities, sequence and responsibilities, while giving priority to the identification and documentation of attributes conveying the OUV, as well as adequate protection regimes and management arrangements.

Among the priority actions for the State Party are comprehensive efforts to identify and document the attributes conveying the OUV of the property, the development of a detailed inventory and relevant indicators for assessing the state of conservation, and the establishment and implementation of a robust monitoring system. The urgent development of an emergency preparedness and response plan for the property, to be annexed to a revised Management Plan, also warrants immediate attention. The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to prioritise these measures, guided by the recommendations of the Reactive Monitoring mission, and to take full advantage of the technical assistance provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party has yet to prepare a proposal for the DSOCR, together with a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee. While noting that this process is hampered by the ongoing war and its consequences, the State Party should be encouraged to prepare this document based on the recommendations of the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission and advice provided through technical assistance by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. The development of the DSOCR and its accompanying programme of corrective measures should be viewed not only as a statutory requirement for properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, but also as a strategic planning tool to guide the conservation and management efforts at the property necessary to address the impact of the war during the years ahead.

The Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict's granting of provisional enhanced protection to the cultural property 'Odesa Literary Museum' brings the total number of such properties in Odesa to four. The State Party's active engagement in the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols (1954 and 1999) should be welcomed. This can be seen as an example of the State Party's earnest engagement in safeguarding the OUV of the property, during a time when it is under attack.

In conclusion, the property continues to face significant challenges that threaten its integrity and authenticity. Due to the ongoing war, it remains exposed to ascertained and potential danger and should therefore remain on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.4,
- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decisions **18 EXT.COM 5.2** and **46 COM 7A.6** adopted at its 18th extraordinary (UNESCO, 2023) and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
- 3. <u>Deplores</u> the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the loss of human life:
- 4. <u>Expresses its utmost concern</u> about the damage caused to the property in several largescale attacks as well as the increasing potential threats facing the property in relation to the ongoing war, and <u>commends</u> the State Party's commitment to the protection of the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including by

- undertaking emergency interventions on historic buildings and a range of protective measures:
- 5. Reiterates its call on the Russian Federation to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the property and its buffer zone and wider setting, as well as to cultural heritage in Ukraine overall, in particular to its World Heritage properties and their buffer zones and wider settings, as well as sites included on the Tentative List of Ukraine, and to fulfil its obligations under international law, including Article 6 of the World Heritage Convention;
- 6. <u>Welcomes</u> the various actions undertaken by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to assist Ukraine in protecting and safeguarding the property and, more generally, cultural heritage throughout its territory within its internationally recognised borders, including through awareness-raising and capacity-building activities;
- 7. <u>Encourages</u> the State Party to continue to take all possible measures to protect its cultural and natural heritage threatened by the war, in particular its World Heritage properties, including their buffer zones and wider settings, and sites included in the Tentative List:
- 8. <u>Calls</u> on the international community to ensure, where applicable, that its support is implemented in full compliance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and the Operational Guidelines, to continue to support the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage in Ukraine, and to cooperate in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Ukraine;
- 9. <u>Takes note</u> of the conclusions of the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and <u>invites</u> the State Party to define an action plan for their implementation, including priorities, sequence and responsibilities, while giving priority to the identification and documentation of attributes conveying the OUV, as well as adequate protection regimes and management arrangements;
- 10. <u>Further encourages</u> the State Party to give high priority to the development and urgent implementation of an emergency preparedness and response plan and to the finalisation of a revised Management Plan for the property, taking into account the recommendations of the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission and taking full advantage of the support that UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies are providing thanks to the support of the Government of Japan;
- 11. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the granting of provisional enhanced protection under the Second Protocol of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict to one more building in the property, bringing the total to four, and <u>encourages furthermore</u> the State Party to seek enhanced protection under the Second Protocol for other significant cultural heritage buildings in the property;
- 12. Reminds the State Party that major restorations, proposed reconstructions or new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property should be notified to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse and that Heritage Impact Assessments of such projects should be undertaken following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in accordance with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines respectively;
- 13. <u>Further reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to prepare, based on the recommendations of the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission and advice provided through

the technical assistance by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and a set of corrective measures along with a timeframe for their implementation, for adoption by the Committee at one of its subsequent sessions, while being aware that this process is hampered by the ongoing war and its consequences;

- 14. <u>Further invites</u> the State Party to improve the regulatory framework for cultural heritage in Ukraine, with assistance provided by UNESCO thanks to the support of the Government of Japan, and <u>also encourages</u> it to consider prioritising the strengthening and streamlining of World Heritage-related legislation as part of its ongoing legislative reform efforts as well as to ensure that any adopted and planned legislative amendments do not have a negative impact on the fulfilment of the obligations of the State Party under the World Heritage Convention;
- 15. <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:
- 16. <u>Decides</u> to retain The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

ARAB STATES

Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jord
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See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5

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

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5

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

See Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5