

**47 COM** WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2.Corr.2 Paris, 4 July 2025 Original: English

# 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 World Heritage List

This Corrigendum relates only to the English version of Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2.

102. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia)

The report on the state of conservation of this property should read as follows.

## **CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

## 102. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1991-1998

Previous Committee Decisions see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/documents/

<u>International Assistance</u> Requests approved: 8 (from 1985-2003) Total amount approved: USD 142,053 For details, see page <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/assistance/</u>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total Amount of the postwar major restoration programme coordinated by UNESCO: USD 80,000,000

#### Previous monitoring missions

November 1996: fact-finding mission; November 2015: joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict (issue resolved)
- Earthquake in September 1996 (*issue resolved*)
- Need to extend the buffer zone
- Large project in the vicinity of the property
- Cruise ship tourism
- Carrying capacity of the property
- Planned Sport and recreation centre with golf course and tourist settlement (*issue resolved*)
- Need for a Risk Management Plan

#### Illustrative material see page https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/

#### Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <u>https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/documents/</u>. The State Party reports progress on the following:

- Preparation of a Conservation Plan for the Old City of Dubrovnik commenced in September 2023 and is expected to be finalised by March 2026, after which it will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The Preparedness and Risk Management Plan is nearing completion and is expected to be submitted to the City Council for approval by January 2025, before being transmitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Ongoing conservation includes the cleaning and restoration of two major historic sewers. The project report, which has been provided in English as requested by the World Heritage

Committee, includes comprehensive documentation and indicates how impact on the historic fabric has been minimised;

- The Pustijerna archaeological site within the historic centre will be featured in a future Archaeological Museum, to be housed in a nearby former prison. This project remains in the initial phase of programme development;
- The Bosanka 2 Project remains on hold with no updates since the 2022 report;
- The Strategy for Building and Strengthening Capacities of Stakeholders, adopted in 2024, covers a broad range of educational programmes on World Heritage understanding and responsible management, and is intended as the first in a series of documents addressing interpretation of the property as part of a long-term framework extending until 2040;
- The World Heritage Interpretation Strategy is anticipated to be adopted in 2025. Additionally, a Strategy for the Development of the City of Dubrovnik Culture up to 2036 is under preparation to complement capacity-building efforts;
- The year 2024 was declared 'Year of UNESCO World Heritage in Dubrovnik', marking the 45th anniversary of the property's inscription, the 15th anniversary of the Festivity of St Blaise's inclusion on the Intangible Cultural Heritage List, and the 2023 inclusion of Dubrovnik Republic archival holdings on the Memory of the World Register;
- The City of Dubrovnik, in collaboration with the Tourist Board, the Port Authority of Dubrovnik, and the University of Dubrovnik, launched a research and development agreement focused on sustainable development. This will produce guidelines for economic growth and improving residents' living conditions, culminating in a Strategy for Integrated Sustainable Tourism Management, due by the end of 2026;
- The first phase of a Carrying Capacity Assessment for the Old City of Dubrovnik has been completed, including methodology, situation analysis, and recommendations, forming a solid base for the second phase, which will address the carrying-capacity for the Island of Lokrum, surveys of resident and visitor sentiment, cruise tourism cost-benefit analysis, and the establishment of a data centre.

On 20 November 2024, the World Heritage Centre transmitted third-party information to the State Party concerning the alleged postponement of plans to construct a bypass road for the airport, alongside photographs of a structure located in the buffer zone. The State Party was invited to provide details and relevant documentation in its 2024 state of conservation report; however, no information was provided.

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

The State Party's commitment to protecting and preserving the Old City of Dubrovnik and the substantial progress made in enhancing the property's management systems, promoting sustainability, and raising public awareness, including through the 'Year of UNESCO World Heritage in Dubrovnik', are welcome. The collaborative approach involving multiple stakeholders, including academic institutions and local authorities, represents a positive step towards integrated heritage management. The adoption of key planning documents, capacity-building initiatives, and a risk management plan – alongside the forthcoming adoption of strategies such as the World Heritage Property Interpretation Strategy and the Strategy for the Development of the City of Dubrovnik Culture by 2036 – are encouraging measures that underpin the long-term proactive conservation of the property. The Committee should request the State Party to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre prior to their finalisation for review by the Advisory Bodies. The Conservation Plan and Integrated Sustainable Tourism Strategy are recognised as critical to safeguarding the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), while supporting sustainable development. The Committee should also request the State Party to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The completion of the first phase of the Carrying Capacity Assessment for the Old City of Dubrovnik is noted, as well as the State Party's plan for a second phase, which will encompass the carrying capacity of the Island of Lokrum, research on residents' and visitors' perceptions, cost-benefit analysis of cruise tourism, and the establishment of a data centre. The State Party should be encouraged to ensure that the findings of this assessment are fully integrated into planning processes to achieve a balanced approach between tourism development and heritage preservation, compatible with the maintenance of the property's OUV, and the complete Carrying Capacity Assessment should be submitted to the World

Heritage Centre to allow for a full review by the Advisory Bodies. The Committee may also wish to emphasise the importance of coordinating and harmonising management tools across different governance levels, securing adequate resources and establishing robust monitoring mechanisms. These measures are essential to ensure the effective implementation of the various strategies and to translate them into tangible improvements in the conservation and management of the property. Progress with preparation of the Preparedness and Risk Management Plan is noted. The Committee should request the State Party to submit the final version to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to formal adoption, and to allow sufficient time to address any proposed recommendations arising from the review process.

The detailed documentation of the repair works on the sewage channels within the city's historic centre is welcomed. The State Party is encouraged to continue meticulous recording these interventions to minimise impact on the property's historic fabric and to keep the World Heritage Centre regularly informed of developments, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. The Committee should request the State Party to provide an update on plans to construct a bypass road for the airport, the structure located in the buffer zone and detailed documentation including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for the project proposed at the Pustijerna archaeological site, once the programme options have been defined and clarified, and in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines. While noting that there has been no change in the status of the Bosanka 2 project since 2022, the State Party should be invited to provide updates on any potential modifications as they arise and to undertake a HIA, prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for submission to the World Heritage Centre and review by the Advisory Bodies.

## Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

1. <u>Having examined</u> Documents WHC/25/47 WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2.Corr.2,

WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2 and

- 2. <u>Recalling</u> Decision **45 COM 7B.180**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
- 3. <u>Welcomes</u> the State Party's commitment to the protection and preservation of the Old City of Dubrovnik, <u>congratulates</u> the State Party on the 'Year of UNESCO World Heritage in Dubrovnik' program and <u>acknowledges</u> the significant progress made in enhancing the property's management systems, advancing sustainability, and raising public awareness through collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders;
- 4. <u>Notes with appreciation</u> the progress with key strategic documents, including the phase one capacity-building strategy and risk management plan, and <u>encourages</u> the State Party to submit the final two-phased Carrying Capacity Assessment, the World Heritage Property Interpretation Strategy and the Strategy for the Development of the City of Dubrovnik Culture by 2036 to the World Heritage Centre prior to their finalisation, in one of the Committee's working languages, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- 5. <u>Also encourages</u> the State Party to ensure that the findings of the Carrying Capacity Assessment for the Old City of Dubrovnik are fully integrated into planning processes to achieve a balanced approach between tourism, development, and heritage preservation, compatible with the maintenance of the property's OUV;
- 6. <u>Reiterates its request</u> to the State Party to submit the forthcoming Conservation Plan and the Strategy for Integrated Sustainable Tourism Management to the World Heritage

Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

- 7. <u>Notes</u> the progress made towards the finalisation of the Preparedness and Risk Management Plan, and <u>requests</u> the State Party to submit the final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to formal adoption, allowing sufficient time to address any recommendations arising from the review process;
- 8. <u>Further encourages</u> the State Party to coordinate and harmonise management tools across different governance levels and to secure adequate resources and establish robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of the various strategies and tangible conservation and management outcomes for the property;
- 9. <u>Acknowledges</u> the ongoing work on the cleaning and restoration of the sewage channels and <u>encourages furthermore</u> the State Party to continue documenting these works to ensure minimal impact on the property's historic fabric and to keep the World Heritage Centre updated with comprehensive project details, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 10. <u>Also requests</u> the State Party to provide an update on plans to construct a bypass road for the airport and the structure located in the buffer zone and to submit detailed documentation for the project proposed at the Pustijerna archaeological site and its integration into the planned Archaeological Museum, as well as an update on the status of the Bosanka 2 Project, including any potential modifications as they arise, accompanied by Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
- 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.