

AMENDMENT/PROPOSAL

Agenda Item	7B. State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List
Draft Decision	47 COM 7B.10
Submitted by the Delegation of:	Belgium
Co-author(s) (if any)	
Date of submission	8/07/2025

TEXT

Draft Decision: 47 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 8B.2**, **39 COM 7B.14**, **45 COM 7B.17** and **46 COM 7B.66** adopted at its 34th (Brasília, 2010), 39th (Bonn, 2015), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party again did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in the last two consecutive years;
4. Reiterates its deep regret regarding the State Party's decision to lift the 2015 landmark closure of the property for commercial fisheries, and expresses its ongoing concern about the continued lack of details and clarity concerning the decision made and the envisaged Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) programme to replace the no-take zone including its potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
5. Recalling the importance to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property of maintaining sufficiently large no-take zones, also recalling its utmost concern that opening up the property to commercial fisheries has resulted in a significant weakening of the protection status of the property
6. Reiterates its call to the State Party to establish sufficiently large no-take zones and to refrain from any unsustainable fishing practices that could negatively impact on the OUV of the property;

7. Calls, in line with decision 47 COM 5E, upon States Parties to assist the State Party with the necessary financial and technical support to assess the implications of removing the no-take protection status;

87. Reiterates its call to States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to refrain from unsustainable fishing practices within the Phoenix Islands Protected Area that could negatively impact on the OUV of the property;

9. Recalls again the importance to the OUV of this property of maintaining sufficiently large no-take zones, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any management decision related to the property, such as removing the protection status of the no-take zone and allowing commercial fishing operations, is science-based and ensures the protection of the OUV of the property;

610. Strongly urges the State Party to invite the requested joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, financed through the World Heritage Fund, to assess its state of conservation including the status and implications of any decision to change the no-take regime within the property, evaluate whether, in conformity with Paragraphs 177 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines, the property might meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and make recommendations on options to ensure that the property's OUV is safeguarded, whilst ensuring the sustainable use of the property's marine resources in such a way that serves the needs of the people of Kiribati;

711. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to continue to follow up closely on the state of conservation of the property, and continue their efforts to engage with the State Party and provide support;

812. Finally requests 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.