47 COM

WHC/25/47.COM/17

Paris, 23 July 2025

Original: English / French

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

DECISIONS ADOPTED

BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

AT ITS 47TH SESSION (UNESCO, 2025)

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1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

No Decision

2. ADMISSION OF OBSERVERS

Decision: 47 COM 2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/2,
2. Taking into consideration Rule 8 (Observers) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee,
3. Authorizes the participation in its 47th session, as observers, of the international governmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), permanent observer missions to UNESCO and non-profit-making institutions having activities in the fields covered by the Convention, as listed in Part I of the above-mentioned document, except for the “Save the Tigris Foundation”.

3A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE 47TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (UNESCO, 2025)

Decision: 47 COM 3A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/3A.Rev,
2. Adopts the Agenda, without item 7C, contained in the above-mentioned document.

3B. ADOPTION OF PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF THE 47TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (UNESCO, 2025)

Decision: 47 COM 3B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/3B,
2. Adopts the timetable contained in the above-mentioned document.

4. REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR OF THE 46TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (NEW DELHI, 2024)

Decision: 47 COM 4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Takes note of the report of the Rapporteur of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee (New Delhi, 2024).

5A. REPORT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S DECISIONS

Decision: 47 COM 5A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/5A and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.5A,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 5A** and **46 COM 5A** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note with appreciation of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre over the past year in pursuit of Output 5.CLT1 to ensure that "Member States' capacities [are] strengthened to identify, protect and manage tangible heritage", and the five Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee;
4. Commends the government of Norway for its continued substantial contribution to the World Heritage Fund to strengthen management and conservation of threatened natural World Heritage properties in Africa, including those inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger and calls on other States Parties to join this this initiative;
5. Thanks all the States Parties, notably Andorra, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium (Governments of Flanders and Wallonia), Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, India, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Sultanate of Oman, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam, that generously supported financially and/or in kind both the activities towards the implementation of the Convention, in Africa particularly and in line with the Priority Africa, as well as the reinforcement of the human resources of the World Heritage Centre, and invites other States Parties to continue providing such support and increase it where possible;
6. Thanks the States Parties that have provided georeferenced data for inclusion into the World Heritage Online Map Platform, encourages all States Parties to provide such data, including in nomination dossiers or in boundary clarification and modification requests, in order to fully benefit from the potential of this tool for monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties, invites States Parties to contribute to the World Heritage Online Map Platform with expertise, networks and financial resources, and thanks the Government of Flanders (Belgium) and the Heritage Emergency Fund for the support provided;
7. Notes with appreciation that UNESCO organized, in close cooperation with the government of Italy, the second Naples Conference on Cultural Heritage in the 21st century in June 2025, following the first Conference in 2023 and with the objective to assess the implementation of the Call for Action 'Spirit of Naples', thanks the government

of Italy for its initiative and for its engagement to host the Naples Conferences as a platform of ongoing reflection to promote a holistic and human-centred approach to cultural heritage, invites all World Heritage stakeholders to continue to participate in this discussion on how to strengthen the synergies between World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage, also in view of MONDIACULT 2025;

8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a report on its activities at its 48th session, as well as an updated result-based report on Thematic Programmes, under the Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities, for examination at its 49th session.

5B. REPORTS OF THE ADVISORY BODIES

Decision: 47 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/5B.Rev,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 5B**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Advisory Bodies on their activities in support of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
4. Also takes note with appreciation of the continued contributions of the Advisory Bodies, including direct financial and in-kind contribution, to ensure the effective implementation of the decisions of the World Heritage Committee as well as the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
5. Further takes note of the progress made, as well as of the challenges and gaps identified by the Advisory Bodies, in the framework of the implementation of the Convention, and the range of issues reported by the Advisory Bodies that continue to require action and attention.

5C. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR WORLD HERITAGE IN AFRICA

Decision: 47 COM 5C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/5C,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 5C** and **46 COM 5C** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress made by African States Parties in the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa (the Strategy) and notes with satisfaction the comprehensive and inclusive efforts undertaken since its adoption to support African States Parties in enhancing representativity, identification, conservation, promotion, capacity-building, and community engagement;
4. Commends the State Party of Kenya, the UNESCO Secretariat, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), for the successful organization of the “International Conference on Cultural Heritage in Africa: A Dialogue on the Concept of Authenticity” in Nairobi (5 -

9 May 2025), with the support of the Governments of Japan and France and the participation of the African States Parties, African and international experts, youth, local communities and Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN), and adopts the "Nairobi Outcome Document on Heritage and Authenticity", that identified and explained what constitutes authenticity and integrity in an African context and similar contexts globally;

5. Requests the World Heritage Centre to include an agenda item related to the concept of authenticity at the next session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the 1972 Convention;

6. Invites the State Party of Kenya, the UNESCO Secretariat and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) to submit a detailed report on the Conference outcomes, including the Academic Publication, and decides to include follow-up on the implementation of the Nairobi Outcome as a standalone agenda item at its 48th session;

7. Also commends the efforts of the World Heritage Centre, in partnership with the Advisory Bodies, AWHF, and African States Parties as well as other partners for the tangible progress made in implementing the Strategy, including through the provision of technical assistance, capacity-building, and the development of nomination dossiers, particularly for non-represented and under-represented countries;

8. Acknowledge with appreciation the financial and technical support provided by the governments of Australia, China, Flanders (Belgium), France, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman and the Fondation OCP (Morocco), and the States Parties which have contributed significantly to the Strategy's implementation through various programmes and activities;

9. Encourages African States Parties to continue implementing the Strategy by revising Tentative Lists, submitting solid nominations using the Preliminary Assessment mechanism, enhancing management and promotion, engaging local communities—especially youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples—and strengthening partnerships with stakeholders, institutional and academic partnerships for sustainable capacity-building;

10. Also encourages further collaboration and partnership with African heritage institutions and training centres, including the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA), the École du Patrimoine Africain (EPA), UNESCO Chairs, and regional universities, to strengthen professional expertise and education in the field of World Heritage;

11. Calls upon the entire international community, including the Group of Friends for Priority Africa as well as regional partners and economic communities in Africa, to continue to provide support to African States Parties in the implementation of the Strategy;

12. Further encourages African States Parties to support the organization of a regional meeting of national focal points by UNESCO and AWHF in early 2026 to take stock of progress in implementing the Strategy, share lessons learned, and strategize towards the 2029 targets and calls for States Parties to contribute financially to the organization of this meeting;

13. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM, the AWHF, the UNESCO Chairs and other capacity building partners, to implement the Strategy and the implementation of Main Objective 1 of UNESCO Flagship Programme 3, and prepare a progress report towards this end in line with the Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029 and Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 for examination by the Committee at its 48th session.

5D. PROGRESS REPORT ON WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision: 47 COM 5D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/5D,

2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7**, **45 COM 5D**, **45 COM 7.2**, **46 COM 7**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively, as well as Resolution **20 GA 13** adopted by the General Assembly at its 20th session (UNESCO, 2015),

3. Welcomes the activities of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the implementation of the 2015 Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention (WHSDP), as well as the progress reported by the States Parties on this during the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, and takes note of the progress in collection of quality data in this context in line with the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration, including with the UNESCO Culture|2030 Indicators, welcoming also reflections on enhancing synergies and alignment with it;

4. Also takes note of the initiatives taken by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to advance work to support implementation of the 2023 Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage (Policy Document), including on the development of the Climate Action Toolkit, as well as the expected activities for a Guidance Document, and reiterates its encouragement to States Parties to support these initiatives through extrabudgetary contributions;

5. Further takes note of the recommendations of the Expert Meeting on the World Heritage Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and thanks the Governments of Germany, Switzerland and Norway for their financial support to this end and invites States Parties to implement the recommendations in order to utilize the mechanisms of the World Heritage Convention to enhance implementation of the GBF and encourages States Parties to identify, as relevant, synergies in implementation towards common objectives between GBF and the World Heritage Convention, as well as with other multilateral environmental agreements, UNESCO site designations, and UNESCO culture conventions, and to integrate World Heritage-related objectives within their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);

6. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop, in accordance with the recommendations of the expert meeting and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, additional technical guidance for States Parties on aligning the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in support of the GBF;

7. Further acknowledges the outcomes of the expert meeting on World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa, hosted by the government of the Republic of Zambia in Livingstone from 15 to 17 April 2025, thanks the government of Zambia and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) for their leadership and coordination, and encourages States Parties to integrate the principles and priorities of the Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls Declaration on World Heritage and Sustainable Development in Africa into national heritage policies, conservation strategies and sustainable development plans, in line with the UNESCO 2015 WHSDP;

8. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in cooperation with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and relevant partners and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to support States Parties in Africa to implement

the Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls Declaration, and to explore mechanisms to enhance its uptake and integration in the implementation of the WHSDP in Africa;

9. Recalls the provisions of the Operational Guidelines that call upon States Parties to adopt a human rights-based approach and to ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the implementation of the Convention, in support of the implementation of the GBF;

10. Noting the significant contribution of the World Heritage Convention to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, recommends States Parties to include World Heritage in national priorities for requests to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other multilateral funding taking into consideration the conservation and management priorities under the Convention, and also encourages GEF to report on the funding they provide to support implementation of the World Heritage Convention;

11. Notes with appreciation the policy publications, Non-Economic Losses: Featuring loss of territory and habitability, ecosystem services and biodiversity, and cultural heritage, by the United Nations Convention Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), co-led by UNESCO, and Urban Heritage for Resilience, consolidated results of the Third Member State Consultation on the 2011 Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape carried out by the Secretariat aligned with the United Nations 2030 Agenda;

12. Appreciates the ongoing cooperation between UNESCO, the Advisory Bodies and the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage (IIPFWH); welcoming the first joint capacity building workshop, further takes note of the recommendations of the Expert Meeting on the World Heritage Convention and the GBF (November 2024), including those related to ensuring full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and the integration of indigenous and local knowledge in the management of World Heritage properties and welcomes furthermore the expansion of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples and their increased participation in meetings related to the World Heritage Convention;

13. Also requests the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies to include in future reporting a dedicated reflection on the impacts of armed conflicts on World Heritage properties, drawing on recent experiences and aiming to improve operational responses and protection mechanisms;

14. Requests the States Parties to implement the WHSDP systematically in and around World Heritage properties, ensuring that sustainable development objectives are mainstreamed into their management plans and conservation actions, further requests the World Heritage Centre to continue, with available resources, activities supporting States Parties to implement the WHSDP, including technical assistance and developing tools and guidance, thanking partners who have contributed and calling on all States Parties and partners to contribute financially towards this end;

15. Also invites UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to continue to support States Parties to align the World Heritage Convention policies and site management practices with the 2030 Agenda and post-2030 sustainable development priorities;

16. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to present a progress report in this regard at its 49th session.

5E. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR SMALL ISLANDS DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) INCLUDING THE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE SIDS 2023-2029 IN THE CONTEXT OF WORLD HERITAGE

Decision: 47 COM 5E

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/5E,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 14**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Expresses its appreciation for the activities of the World Heritage Centre with UNESCO Field Offices, Advisory Bodies, and other partners in building capacities, providing technical assistance, and advancing sustainable development and resilience, in and around World Heritage properties in the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS);
4. Thanks the governments of Australia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and the Sultanate of Oman for their financial support in implementing activities in and around World Heritage properties in the SIDS;
5. Encourages States Parties and other partners to continue supporting the World Heritage Programme for SIDS and the implementation of the World Heritage activities in SIDS by providing financial support and/or reinforcing the human resources of the institutions involved;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre, together with the Advisory Bodies, to continue pursuing, within the available resources, the development of activities for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at national and sub-regional levels including advancing sustainable development and climate resilience in line with the Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective in World Heritage Processes (2015) and the Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage (2023);
7. Welcomes the development of the World Heritage Strategy for the SIDS and requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage-related activities for SIDS, including the World Heritage Strategy for the SIDS, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

6A. WORLD HERITAGE-RELATED CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CAPACITY-BUILDING STRATEGY

Decision: 47 COM 6A

The World Heritage Committee

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/6A,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 6A**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Reaffirming the importance of the outcomes of the 2023 independent evaluation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS) and the need for a revised strategy aligned with current global challenges, policy priorities and the existing capacity-building ecosystem,

4. Thanks the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN, and all World Heritage-related Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (C2Cs), as well as the participating States Parties, for their substantive contributions to the development of the revised WHCBS 2025–2035;

5. Regrets that no additional dedicated financial resources were provided by States Parties for the revision process despite repeated appeals, and notes that the exercise was carried out with limited funding from the World Heritage Fund's capacity-building budget line;

6. Notes with appreciation that the revision of the Strategy occurred through a transparent, consultative and inclusive revision process, in close collaboration with the C2Cs and with inputs from a broad and geographically balanced range of stakeholders;

7. Takes note that some aspects raised during the regional consultation process were not fully reflected in the current Strategy;

8. Recognising the revised Strategy's added value in strengthening national and site-level capacities, enhancing coordination and resource access, promoting people-centred and regionally responsive approaches, and aligning capacity-building with global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development,

9. Adopts the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy 2025–2035 with a view to presenting to the 48th session of the World Heritage Committee a refined version of the Strategy which fully reflects the results of regional consultations and considers that this World Heritage Strategy 2025–2035 is an adaptive strategy to be reviewed and updated in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, States Parties and Category 2 centres, in light of the evolving challenges and the emerging needs of States Parties;

10. Highlights that the Strategy introduces a global coordination mechanism centred around a Capacity-Building Coordination Team to be based at the World Heritage Centre, and comprising of ICCROM, as priority partner, IUCN, ICOMOS and C2Cs, to develop together biennial Implementation Plans, and thematic and regional priorities aligned with global challenges identified notably through the Periodic Reporting exercise;

11. Urges States Parties and other stakeholders to provide sustained, predictable financial contributions for capacity building and to provide extrabudgetary funding for the implementation of the revised WHCBS, including its inclusive coordination mechanism;

12. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Coordination Team to develop the first biennial Implementation Plan (2025–2027) and submit it for review at its 48th session, if funding allows;

13. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Coordination Team, to prepare a user-friendly version of the refined Strategy, in the two working languages of the Convention, and encourages States Parties and partners to facilitate translations into national languages in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre to promote its wide dissemination and accessibility;

14. Encourages all partners, including States Parties, C2Cs, UNESCO Offices, National Commissions for UNESCO, and heritage institutions to engage in the capacity-building activities of the revised Strategy;

15. Thanks the States Parties of Australia, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland for the continued financial support they are providing to capacity-building activities for World Heritage, and all States Parties providing in-kind support for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;

16. Encourages voluntary contributions, particularly multi-year and pooled funding, to support the implementation of the WHCBS and enable coordination at global and regional levels;

17. Finally requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Coordination Team to submit a progress report on World Heritage-related capacity-building activities and the implementation of the revised WHCBS, for examination at its 48th session.

6B. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE WORLD HERITAGE-RELATED CATEGORY 2 CENTRES

Decision: 47 COM 6B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/6B,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 6B**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Congratulates the World Heritage-related Category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO for their contributions to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, especially towards the Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO's Global Priorities;

4. Thanks the governments of the Kingdom of Bahrain, Brazil, China, Mexico, Indonesia, India, the Republic of Korea and South Africa for hosting active World Heritage-related Category 2 centres and thereby supporting the work of UNESCO and the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;

5. Thanks States Parties that are contributing to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention through Category 2 centres and further encourages States Parties to support theses Category 2 centres in their regions for the implementation of World Heritage-related activities;

6. Takes note of the decision of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain not to renew the agreement for the operation of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) as from the second quarter of 2025;

7. Acknowledging the long-standing collaboration between the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) in supporting the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab States, particularly in North Africa, encourages States Parties to continue fostering cooperation between regional partners, including technical support, capacity building, and joint initiatives that contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention;

8. Welcomes the WHITR-AP Shanghai Five-Year Programme Proposal (2026-2030) aimed to further implement the HUL approach to strengthen urban-rural heritage conservation and to promote knowledge production, capacity-building, and policy development in partnership with UNESCO, UN-Habitat, the Advisory Bodies, and other partners;

9. Encourages States Parties to make full use of the capacities of the different Category 2 centres, based on their specialist areas, and to support and participate in their activities whenever possible;

10. Also encourages Category 2 centres to continue organising activities that are international or regional in scope and contribute to the global development agendas, the strategic priorities of the World Heritage Committee and the implementation of the

Framework Action Plans developed for each region as part of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting;

11. Further encourages the active role of the UNESCO Category 2 centres with a mandate in capacity building, in contributing to periodic revision of the Tentative List, and supporting States Parties in the preparation of nomination files, capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and resource mobilization, particularly in regions where imbalances persist;

12. Also thanks Category 2 centres for their active participation in the revision process of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy, and further encourages them to contribute to its effectuation, as well as to participate in the development of the related Implementation Plan;

13. Requests the World Heritage-related Category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 March 2026**, a progress report on all their activities concerning the implementation of the World Heritage Convention since the present session, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

7. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Decision: 47 COM 7

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7, 43 COM 7.2, 44 COM 7.2, 45 COM 7.1, 45 COM 7.2**, and **46 COM 7** adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Also recalling that all proposed major interventions in and around World Heritage properties should be subject to rigorous impact assessments, as outlined in Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and in line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context*; and that both the proposals and the impact assessment-related documentation be submitted, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any interventions for new construction, demolition, modification, recovery or reconstruction commences or decisions made that cannot be reversed;

Follow-up to the 2019 evaluation of the Reactive Monitoring process

4. Welcomes the detailed Implementation Plan developed by the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, which provides a clear framework to ensure the implementation of the priority recommendations of the 2019 evaluation of the Reactive Monitoring process and to report back to the Committee on their implementation;

5. Taking note with appreciation of the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations, expresses its gratitude to all the stakeholders of the Convention who have actively contributed to such progress and requests them to continue with the implementation of the recommendations at their level as soon as possible;

6. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, and in line with Recommendation 34 of the evaluation, to present a progress report on the achievements of the Implementation Plan, for examination at its 49th session;

Emergency situations

7. Regrets the loss of human life and the deterioration of humanitarian conditions resulting from conflicts (including armed conflicts and civil unrest) in and around World Heritage properties, while expressing its deepest concern that these conflicts continue to constitute a major threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties and a major reason for the inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

8. Welcomes the protection and conservation efforts being undertaken by States Parties for World Heritage properties in current and former conflict zones, including the remote development of corrective measures and the progress made in defining the Desired state of conservation for the removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

9. Invites the World Heritage Centre in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies to analyse situations where World Heritage sites are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger on grounds related to threats which are beyond the relevant State Party's control,

such as armed conflict, natural disasters and other emergency situations, and arrange an expert study by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on such situations if needed, including through extra-budgetary resources;

10. Urges again all parties associated with conflicts to ensure the protection of cultural and natural heritage and to avoid their use for military purposes, and calls upon all States Parties to cooperate in combating the illicit trafficking of cultural objects resulting from armed conflicts, including through the ratification of the 1970 Convention and the 1954 Convention and its two Protocols, and the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015) and 2347 (2017), as well as the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendations on Museums and Collections (2015);

11. Also welcomes the continued work of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in responding to emergencies and conflicts threatening cultural and natural World Heritage properties and their OUV, including through the World Heritage Fund, the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund and the Rapid Response Facility;

Recovery and Reconstruction

12. Welcomes the continued efforts of States Parties and the international community to respond to post-conflict and post-disaster recovery, as well as their positive social and community linkages, and thanks UNESCO, the Advisory Bodies and all the partners for their generous support of the initiatives and efforts;

13. Recalls that reconstruction is only justified in exceptional circumstances and should be based on thorough documentation, guided by conservation plans and policies that support the OUV and as outlined in Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines;

14. Expresses its deep condolences to the people affected by disasters over the past year and the resulting loss of lives, in addition to serious damage to heritage sites, calls on the international community to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of protective and/or repair measures that may be required to respond to the impact of the earthquake damage;

15. Reiterates its previous encouragement to all States Parties to prepare comprehensive risk preparedness strategies and emergency response plans for World Heritage properties at risk from armed conflict and/or disasters resulting from natural causes;

16. Emphasises that Recovery Plans and major reconstruction projects which extend beyond emergency repair and stabilisation work should be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in conformity with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in the World Heritage Context*;

Development pressures

17. Reiterates its concern regarding the continued and increasing pressures on World Heritage arising from a wide range of development pressures from small scale housing projects to large scale infrastructure development, including for transport and energy, urban development and expansion, mining and extraction, and the building of border barriers, to the development of tourism infrastructure within World Heritage properties or in their wider setting, resulting in significant potential and ascertained threats to the OUV of these properties;

18. Requests States Parties to ensure that their obligations under Articles 4 and 5 of the World Heritage Convention are appropriately reflected in legislative, governance and management systems for World Heritage properties, to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to the protection of OUV across all levels of government;

19. Reiterates its encouragement to States Parties to implement the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) to further the protection of the OUV of urban World Heritage properties, and also to use the UNESCO Urban Heritage Atlas digital tool and platform towards this;

20. Reminds States Parties that, to support effective planning and decision-making, the potential impacts of proposed developments on the OUV of World Heritage properties must be thoroughly assessed in accordance with paragraphs 110 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and based on the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, and that both development proposals and their impact assessment documentation should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to decisions that would be difficult to reverse, as stipulated in Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, emphasizing that developments that will negatively impact the OUV should not be permitted to proceed, and recalling that, for any project that is considered appropriate to proceed in a World Heritage context, the findings of impact assessment reports, including project alternatives and mitigation measures, are implemented and monitored throughout the project lifecycle;

21. Welcomes the forthcoming updated Guidance for Wind and Solar Energy Projects in a World Heritage Context, and invites States Parties to make use of it and to refer proponents of renewable energy projects to it to ensure alignment with World Heritage protection requirements;

22. Appreciates ongoing capacity-building/coaching support being provided to States Parties by the Kingdom of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) in undertaking impact assessments in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO, IUCN and NCEA;

Management Effectiveness

23. Invites States Parties to implement best-practice management approaches that include periodic monitoring and evaluation of World Heritage management systems to ensure effective protection and maintenance of the OUV, and to utilise the 2023 *Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0* and other relevant tools, to inform adaptive management approaches;

24. Notes the critical importance of clearly established legislation and governance arrangements for the protection of the OUV of World Heritage properties and recalls that effective management systems for World Heritage properties, including HIA mechanisms, should be integrated into local, regional, and national planning processes to ensure coherent and coordinated protection of the OUV at all levels of government, emphasizing the importance of sustainable solutions that ensure the long-term protection and maintenance of OUV including with the implementation of the HUL Recommendation for urban World Heritage properties;

25. Recalls that the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value adopted by the Committee provides the fundamental benchmark for managing World Heritage properties and assessing impacts of actions that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value;

26. Also recalls that the preparation of new nomination dossiers for the World Heritage List should ensure that management systems for potential properties include provisions for monitoring and evaluating management effectiveness, as well as robust impact assessment processes;

27. Further recalls the availability of information systems supporting effective management, including the World Heritage Online Map Platform, alongside the importance of sharing best practices through the UNESCO World Heritage Canopy platform and the IUCN-ICCROM-ICOMOS Nature Culture Community of PANORAMA and invites States Parties to continue contributing to these platforms and to share effective management practices;

Climate Change

28. Notes with concern that World Heritage properties continue to increasingly face impacts of climate change, including extreme temperature fluctuations and heatwaves, wildfires, flooding, glacier retreat, storms, droughts, desertification and sea-level rise; and also notes the publication 'Climate Change in Mediterranean World Heritage Cities' and its finding that the predicted future scenario under the worst-case for 2100 is already being experienced at many urban World Heritage properties with predictions only likely to further increase in intensity and frequency and highlights the potential of urban heritage to enhance resilience;

29. Urges States Parties to implement the 2023 Policy Document on Climate Action for World Heritage (Policy Document) and encourages again the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres to disseminate it widely through appropriate means;

30. Also encourages national, sub-national, local, and site authorities to assess and monitor climate impacts on their properties in line with the Policy Document, and to ensure that the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions effectively reflects relevant practices and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities associated with the property;

31. Calls on national, sub-national, local, and site authorities to integrate World Heritage properties into plans, policies, and actions to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage due to climate change and related disasters;

32. Notes with concern that wildfires constitute a recurrent threat to World Heritage natural properties, while their severity is escalating as a result of climate change, and urges States Parties to cooperate in enhancing knowledge generation and sharing, and strengthening fire management capacity for more effective prevention, mitigation, response and post-fire recovery in World Heritage natural properties, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the recommendations of the United Nations Environmental Program, Food and Agriculture Organization, and other relevant instruments;

Corporate sustainability

33. Welcomes the growing efforts of the corporate sector and the development banks to integrate World Heritage safeguards into their sustainability policies and strategies, and invites all relevant private and public sector companies to follow the example, and to submit their adopted policies to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre;

34. Reiterates its request to the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to continue to work with the corporate sector to support the adoption and implementation of World Heritage safeguards policies;

35. Notes with serious concern the reported high presence of extractive assets, including claims, concessions and projects for mining, oil and gas in natural World Heritage properties, and recalls that the activities of the extractive sector are considered incompatible with the World Heritage status;

36. Urges all States Parties to the Convention, as well as industry players and their investors and assurers, to respect the World Heritage 'no-go' commitment by not authorising and not pursuing activities of the extractives sector within World Heritage properties, and ensuring that activities that are conducted outside properties are subject to appropriate impact assessments, conducted in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, and avoid all harm on World Heritage;

37. Requests the World Heritage Centre to evaluate the feasibility of extending the scope of the World Heritage 'No-Go' Commitment to the corporate sector engaged in maritime

operations and industrial fishing, provided that extra-budgetary resources are made available;

Invasive Alien Species

38. Continues to note with concern the threat posed by invasive alien species (IAS) to natural World Heritage properties and the number of properties significantly affected by IAS;

39. Urges States Parties to develop adequately-resourced IAS strategies and action plans that emphasise prevention, early warning and rapid response in World Heritage properties, and encourages States Parties to utilise the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) IAS Toolkit for Target 6 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), produced in collaboration with IUCN; also encouraging States Parties to consider World Heritage as part of their national strategies towards achieving Target 6 of the GBF;

40. Strongly encourages again States Parties to incorporate IAS response strategies into climate change mitigation policies and actions for World Heritage properties.

7A. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA-PACIFIC

1. Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.56**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes that the 2024 IUCN Advisory mission to the property was undertaken to advise the State Party on a Significant Boundary Modification (SBM) proposal and evaluate progress in the implementation of the corrective measures towards the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

4. Also welcomes the progress achieved by the State Party in implementing the corrective measures and State Party's efforts to prepare the detailed progress report towards achieving the DSOCR by mid-2025, which should include an action plan and timeline to implement the actions needed to achieve the remainder of the DSOCR indicators, but notes with concern that forest loss within the property is continuing at a rate that is exceeding restoration efforts;

5. Further welcomes the completion and implementation of a monitoring guideline for the four key species (Sumatran tiger, rhino, elephant and orangutan) that enables standardized data collection and reporting across all component parts of the property;

6. Appreciates the State Party's reaffirmed confirmation to fully implement the mitigation measures for the Karo-Langkat road, and the confirmation that the widening of the Bukit Tapan-Sungai Penuh road segment has not been implemented, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to not proceed with the widening project given the potential impacts, and to clarify the current status of the proposed Sanggi-Bengkunat road upgrade project, ensuring that it is not permitted to proceed should the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property be negatively affected;

7. Takes note that the hydropower projects and mining projects proposed in the wider Leuser Ecosystem in the vicinity of the Gunung Leuser National Park component part of the property have not been implemented and further requests the State Party to undertake Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for these projects and the proposed Trans-Sumatran Highway, also in the Leuser Ecosystem, to assess any impacts on the OUV of the property before any decision is taken that may be difficult to reverse, and in line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*;

8. Further welcomes the completion of the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the property and requests furthermore the State Party to implement the identified mitigation actions that apply to policies, plans and programmes within the property and the wider setting to enhance the protection of the OUV of the property;

9. Also takes note that a proposal for a SBM for the property was submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and encourages the State Party to resubmit the SBM, also taking into account the recommendations of the 2024 Advisory mission;

10. 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;

11. **Decides to retain Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

2. East Rennell (Solomon Islands)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.5,** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Appreciates the State Party's continued commitments and efforts towards the implementation of the corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with support of International Assistance and in close collaboration with local communities and stakeholders;

4. Noting that the submission of a new Cabinet Paper regarding budgetary allocation for the management of the property needs to be reviewed following the change of government in 2024, urges the State Party to allocate sufficient budget, as a matter of priority, to ensure the long-term, sustainable management of the property, including to support the implementation of the 3-year Strategic Plan for sustainable management of the property developed by the Lake Tegano World Heritage Site Association (LTWHSA);

5. Welcomes the continued efforts by the State Party to apply the Protected Areas (PA) Act 2010, including the ongoing consultations with the 16 customary landowner tribal groups, establishment of the PA Management Committee and initiation of participatory land use planning and mapping, and encourages the State Party to continue consultations to obtain full consent from all the customary landowners to ensure legal protection for the entire property, in particular, against existing and potential threats of mining and commercial logging in the area adjacent to the property;

6. Notes with concern that the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle and new invasive plant species emphasises the urgent need to strengthen biosecurity measures, also welcomes the continued efforts to address invasive alien species (IAS) including through support provided by BirdLife International to control rodents, develop a biosecurity plan for Rennell and Bellona Islands (Renbel Biosecurity Plan) and support ranger monitoring, and requests the State Party to:

   a) Undertake further assessment of the impacts of any new IAS threats on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and impacts on food security for local communities,

   b) Ensure that the full findings of the assessment of impacts on indicator species informs IAS management measures for the property,

   c) Finalise the Rennel Biosecurity Plan;

7. Notes with appreciation that the 3-year Strategic Plan for the sustainable management of the property was expected to be finalised in 2025, and requests the State Party to submit the finalised plan to the World Heritage Centre;

8. Further welcomes continued efforts to support sustainable livelihoods and food security for the local communities including through the support of the Netherlands and Japan (UNESCO Funds-in-Trusts) and Italy (UNESCO Earth Network), and also encourages the State Party to continue these efforts;

9. Takes note that a Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) identified climate-related vulnerability and community perceptions of on-ground climate change impacts, and further encourages the State Party to continue plans to conduct an “integrated vulnerability and adaptation assessment” to inform management measures that fully address climate change impacts on the property and local communities;

10. Noting that a mining lease was issued for two companies for tenements in West Rennell outside the property, recalls the Committee’s position that mining is considered incompatible with World Heritage status including that any mining outside of World Heritage properties should not negatively impact the OUV, also requests the State Party to:

    a) Provide further details on the two mining leases,

    b) Ensure that any potential impacts on the OUV of the property and local communities are fully assessed through an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), prior to making any decision to proceed with operations, in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines and in line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*;

11. Regrets that no information was provided concerning the mass mortality of flying foxes in 2021 given that the previous State Party report indicated a possible local extinction of this attribute of the OUV, reiterates its request to the State Party to clarify the status of flying foxes in the property and the cause of its mortality;

12. Notes with appreciation the progress made by the State Party in pursuing a case against the company responsible for the grounding of the barge (SAPOR 2302) in 2021, and

encourages furthermore the State Party to continue its support for the communities in their claims for compensation;

13. Also takes note that additional time is required to fully achieve the DSOCR and that the State Party has requested to extend the timeframe to 2026, decides to extend the timeframe **until 2026** to implement the corrective measures towards achieving the DSOCR, yet expresses concern that achieving full implementation of the DSOCR within this timeframe will continue to be challenging without ongoing and additional support, both financially and technically, and calls upon the existing and potential partners to provide the State Party with the necessary support;

14. Further requests the State Party to provide a specific update on progress to date in implementing the corrective measures and achieving the DSOCR indicators, towards the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

15. 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;

16. **Decides to retain East Rennell (Solomon Islands) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

3. Everglades National Park (United States of America)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5,

2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7A.14**, **35 COM 7A.14**, **45 COM 7A.17** and **46 COM 7A.41**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the State Party's reported progress in implementing the corrective measures, which has led to an improvement in several integrity indicators since 2019, including increased water flows, reduced nutrient pollution, expanding populations of American crocodiles, alligators, and wading birds, decreased hypersalinity impacts, and the absence of wildfires affecting the property for over a decade;

4. Notes with concern that despite these positive developments, nearly two-thirds of the integrity indicators still fall short of the restoration targets necessary to achieve the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and therefore requests the State Party to continue to strengthen current restoration efforts towards achieving the DSOCR;

5. Expresses concern regarding localised increases in total phosphorus concentrations and the continued presence of mercury in the ecosystem, and urges the State Party to address the underlying causes and implement mitigation measures as a matter of priority;

6. Reiterates its concern over the persistence of invasive alien species (IAS) as a major threat to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), compounded by limited resources for managing invasive fish and wildlife species, and reiterates its request to

the State Party to ensure sustained, long-term allocation of resources to strengthen IAS control, monitoring, and prevention efforts;

7. Notes with further concern the growing impacts of climate change on the property's OUV, including sea level rise, marsh collapse, vegetation shifts, and saltwater intrusion, also welcomes the planned three-year process to develop a climate change roadmap, and also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of its development, and to ensure that adaptation measures outlined in the General Management Plan (GMP) are integrated while addressing new and emerging threats;

8. Expresses again its utmost concern regarding the potential adverse impacts of the proposed extension of the SR 836/Dolphin Expressway on the Greater Everglades wetland ecosystem and urges again the State Party to identify alternatives that avoid any negative impacts on the OUV of the property, including its conditions of integrity, through an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, and to submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

9. Regrets the continued decline of the roseate spoonbill population and its abandonment of historic nesting sites, likely due to altered freshwater flows and sea level rise, rendering it no longer viable as an ecological integrity indicator, and further requests the State Party to clarify whether this situation reflects broader ecological integrity challenges, and to continue research and mitigation efforts to address the causes of the nesting shifts;

10. Strongly encourages the State Party to reassess the corrective measures in view of the time elapsed since their adoption in 2006, subsequently updated in 2011, and to update them to reflect recent progress and current challenges, including the impacts of climate change and requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the overall implementation of the corrective measures and to provide support in their revision, sufficiently in advance to enable the mission's findings to inform the Committee's deliberations at its 49th session;

11. Finally requests 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;

12. **Decides to retain Everglades National Park (United States of America) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

4. Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.42** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Notes with appreciation the progress made towards addressing issues of land tenure, including the completion of the land titling process in the cultural zone of the Río Plátano

Biosphere Reserve, the continued issuance and maintenance of Family Usufruct Contracts in the buffer zone and the ongoing work of the Mosquitia Subcommission, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts and ensure that management responsibilities and usage rights are assigned through continued issuance and maintenance of Family Usufruct Contracts, as appropriate;

4. Also notes with appreciation the increase in law enforcement actions undertaken in 2024 for the surveillance, intervention and prevention of illegal activities in the property, notably poaching, deforestation and illegal settlements, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts in coordination with relevant authorities and local and indigenous communities;

5. Notes with concern nonetheless, that the reported rate of deforestation in the property has almost doubled since the last reporting period, and urges again the State Party strengthen efforts to halt deforestation and promote recovery of forest cover in the property;

6. Notes the launch of the National Forest Restoration Strategy 2023-2030 and Zero Deforestation by 2029 Strategy as a positive step towards addressing forest loss in the property and throughout the country, and also requests that adequate financial resources and technical capacity, as well as coordination with existing management and conservation initiatives for the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, are secured for the implementation of these new strategies;

7. Also notes with concern that the process to develop a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification is reportedly paused for the coming years, and reiterates its request to the State Party to secure the necessary technical and financial resources required for consultations, especially with indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial councils, and to fully consider the archaeological heritage of the property in this process;

8. Also notes the intention to establish the Indigenous Anthropological Reserve Miskitu Warunta protected area in the region, and further requests the State Party to clarify the new reserve's location and management approach in relation to the World Heritage property, and ensure that conservation and management activities are complementary and coordinated, where appropriate;

9. Welcomes the capacity building efforts offered by the State Party of Panama to support the State Party of Honduras in the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess potential impacts of the Patuca III Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and urges the State Party of Honduras to advance the SEA process, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, and implement adequate management decisions according to the assessment's findings;

10. Further notes the proposed revisions to the indicators for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review the proposal to ensure that revisions adequately reflect the required corrective measures to address the concerns indicated in Decision **35 COM 7B.31** upon the property's inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and also assess the situation with regards to the continued deforestation and illegal activities, and the progress made in the SEA for the Patuca III HPP, particularly in relation to assessing the impacts on the OUV;

11. 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;

12. **Decides to retain Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

5. Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.97** and **46 COM 7A.43,** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for its interinstitutional coordinated response to address the conservation challenges affecting the property;
4. Welcomes the initiatives to actively involve local communities, fishers, and civil society organizations in the conservation and sustainable management of the property, and to improve the management effectiveness of components of the property;
5. Reiterates its utmost concern about the critical status of the vaquita, specifically recognized as part of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and endemic to the Gulf of California, and that illegal fishing of totoaba has continued in the Upper Gulf of California resulting in a threat of imminent extinction of the vaquita species;
6. Notes with concern that the 2024 vaquita survey detected only 6–8 individuals and considers it essential that the remaining vaquita are fully protected through all means necessary, in particular by eliminating the illegal use of gillnets in their habitat;
7. Again notes with concern that, despite renewed commitments and improvements to inter-institutional surveillance and law enforcement efforts, illegal fishing in the property persists, and reiterates again its requests to the State Party to strengthen law enforcement efficiency through increased surveillance and inspection accompanied by improved criminal prosecution procedures and development of necessary legislation to increase the penalties foreseen for illegal traffic, capture, possession, import and export of wildlife species, parts and products considered, threatened, endangered or specially protected and/or regulated under national law, or by international treaties adopted by the State Party;
8. Urges the State Party to implement vessel monitoring systems and other technologies to complement ongoing enforcement efforts, accompanied by adequate training and technical capacity-building to ensure their effective operation;
9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently expedite the production and deployment of alternative gear and provide information to the World Heritage Centre on the uptake of alternative gear across all fishing communities of the Upper Gulf of California;
10. Recommends that the State Party assess the possibility of expanding the Zero Tolerance Zone (ZTZ) to encompass areas where vaquita sightings were reported outside the current boundaries, to ensure more effective and comprehensive habitat protection;
11. Also welcomes the cooperation between the State Party with other relevant States Parties, notably the United States of America and the People's Republic of China, to combat illegal trafficking of totoaba products, and encourages its further development, including within the framework of Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and strongly recommends that the State Party

of Mexico, together with all the States Parties of transit and all destination countries, take urgent action in line with all CITES decisions to effectively address the illegal totoaba bladder trade;

12. Also requests the State Party to implement, with utmost priority, all of the corrective measures for the property, included in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) approved by the Committee;

13. Further requests the State Party to provide details of the proposed gas development which would include the transportation of extracted gas in the vicinity of the property, and to ensure that the potential impacts of such a project on the OUV of the property, including the marine biodiversity and ecosystems, be assessed through an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and to avoid approving any activities that would negatively impact the OUV;

14. 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;

15. **Decides to retain Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

6. Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.3** and **46 COM 7A.44** adopted at its 45th extended session (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) respectively,

3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party and the managing authority, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), to implement the corrective measures updated in 2019 and the activities provided for in the 2022–2024 action plan, and to secure and improve the management and monitoring of the property, in particular the strengthening of operational capacity, community development initiatives around the property and the regulation of transboundary transhumance, and encourages the State Party and its partners to continue their efforts and accelerate full implementation of the corrective measures and activities provided for in the 2022–2024 action plan;

4. Acknowledges the significant efforts made by the State Party and its partners to increase the secured area of the property, with a view to achieving the 63 per cent target (11,000 km²) initially set, but notes however that the areas reported for the period 2021–2023 are inconsistent with the state of conservation reports submitted in 2024 and 2025 and thus do not permit a decision to be taken as to whether the target of 63 per cent of the area secured has actually been achieved, therefore urges the State Party to clarify the

progress made in this regard and calls upon the international community to provide greater support for the efforts of the State Party and its partners to provide sustainable funding to fully secure the property;

5. Takes note that on-foot and aerial surveys carried out in 2024 enabled data to be collected on a number of wildlife species, notes with concern the lack of recent sightings of key species of outstanding universal value (OUV) including lion, leopard, cheetah and wild dog and requests the State Party to standardize survey methodologies to ensure comparability of data, and to provide analyses of population abundance, distribution and trends;

6. Recalling that the indicators established in the 2022–2024 Action Plan simply represented guidelines for immediate action by the State Party and its partners, also requests that the State Party, on the basis of reliable indicators on the key species of the property's OUV and as soon as possible, finalize the drafting of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and submit it to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for review, with a view to its adoption by the Committee;

7. While noting the establishment of a joint commission to identify the boundaries of the oil block to the north of the property and the organization of an awareness-raising mission to encourage consultation between the mining stakeholders and the managers of the property, notes with concern that the threats posed by oil exploration and illegal mining activities have still not been resolved and once again reiterates its request to the State Party to clarify the situation regarding oil block A and exploration blocks I, II and III, which straddle the property, and ensure that no oil or mineral exploration activity is authorized within the property;

8. Expresses concern about the lack of information concerning the current impact of mining and oil activities on the property and the effectiveness of the various actions undertaken to exclude these activities, reiterates once again its established position that mineral or oil exploration or exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status and furthermore requests that the State Party provide a more detailed report on the extent of these activities and their impacts on the property's OUV;

9. Regrets the absence of detailed responses from the State Party to several key requests made in Decision **46 COM 7A.44**, which makes it difficult to clearly assess the progress made in their implementation;

10. Also urges the State Party to provide an up-to-date answer regarding the implementation of Decision **46 COM 7A.44,** particularly regarding:

    a) Assessment of the extent and impact of mining activities on the outstanding universal value of the property,

    b) Progress made in finalizing the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project to rehabilitate national road 8 Ndélé–Birao and its submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN,

    c) Submission of an application for a minor boundary modification of the property to create a buffer zone for the property that is consistent with the zoning of the biosphere reserve;

11. Further requests the State Party, during the course of 2025, to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property and the effective progress made, review the updated corrective measures of 2019 and their implementation schedule in light of the continuing challenges;

12. 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;

13. **Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to this property**;

14. **Also decides to maintain the Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

7. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire/Guinea)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.6**, **44 COM 7A.40**, **45 COM 7A.4** and **46 COM 7A.45**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Noting the progress made in implementing some corrective measures, including joint transboundary surveillance patrols, mobilising funding, ecological monitoring and supporting neighbouring populations, encourages the States Parties to continue the full implementation of these measures to ensure the continued improvement of the state of conservation of the property and thanks the donors supporting the conservation of the property, in particular the French Development Agency, the European Commission, the World Bank and the World Heritage Fund;

4. Welcomes the validation of the individual Management and Development Plans (PAGs) for the Ivorian (in 2022) and Guinean (in 2024) components, notes with appreciation the progress being made in the development of the Integrated Master Plan at the property level, and requests the States Parties to submit the two individual PAGs to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to the finalisation of the Integrated Master Plan, which should also be reviewed by IUCN prior to its final validation;

5. Also welcomes the establishment of a harmonised ecological monitoring protocol at the property level and the availability of data on certain Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) key species, takes note of the studies funded in 2024 to fill the knowledge gap on the *Micropotamogale lamottei*, and also encourages the States Parties to establish a long-term monitoring mechanism and to centralise data in a common database accessible to all partners;

6. Notes the planned materialisation and delineation of the peripheral zone of the Ivorian component of the property, in accordance with Law No. 2002-102, and the forthcoming preparation of a land use map, and urges the State Party of Côte d'Ivoire to officially designate the forests in the vicinity of the property as a buffer zone under the World Heritage Convention, following the procedure for minor boundary modifications in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;

7. Also notes the IUCN assessment of the Terms of Reference (ToR) and of the Scoping Study Report for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Phase 1 of the Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG) project, expresses its concern that these documents do not cover all phases of the project and are limited to assessing impacts on biodiversity in general, without considering the specific and cumulative potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*;

8. Recalls the SMFG commitment to carry out an ESIA for the project in accordance with international standards and to submit it to an independent technical review, as stipulated in Decision **44 COM 7A.40**, requests that the ToR and the Scoping Report be revised to incorporate the project in its entirety, including all phases of its life cycle (construction, operation, closure and restoration), and to comprehensively assess the specific and cumulative potential impacts on the OUV of the property, and that the revised documents be submitted to IUCN for review prior to any approval;

9. Noting that Zali Mining and Nimba Alliance have been acquired by Nimba Development Company (NDC) and Equatorial Resources Limited (ERL) respectively, expresses its deep concern that the Nimba West permit acquired by ERL covers a significant part of the Guinean component of the property, also requests that the State Party of Guinea provide detailed information on the status of these projects, and reiterates its request to the State Party of Guinea that no environmental compliance certificates or mining permits be issued for projects/companies around the property until their cumulative impacts on the OUV in their entirety have been subject to ESIAs compliant with the above-mentioned Guidance, and that these ESIAs be submitted to IUCN for review;

10. Regrets the lack of additional information concerning the World Bank planned strategic assessment of all mining projects in Guinea in relation to the OUV of the property and reiterates once again its request to the State Party of Guinea not to grant any new mining exploration or exploitation permits around the property without carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the impacts, including synergistic and cumulative impacts, of these projects, and submitting it for prior consideration to the World Heritage Centre and for review by IUCN;

11. Also takes note of the progress made in 2024 towards achieving the indicators of the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and further encourages the States Parties to continue their efforts and to include sources for verification of these indicators (as specified in the approved DSOCR) in the next state of conservation report to facilitate analysis of the information and better inform the relevance of organising a possible joint Reactive Monitoring mission in 2026;

12. Finally requests the States Parties 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;

13. **Decides to maintain Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire,Guinea) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

Note: the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo need to be read in conjunction with Item 8 below.

8. General Decision on the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Decision: 47 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.46**, **45 COM 7A.9**, and **46 COM 7A.46**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Notes that no separate report has been submitted by the State Party in response to Decision **46 COM 7A.46**, as was the case for Decisions **45 COM 7A.9** and **44 COM 7A.46**, and appreciates that individual reports have been submitted for the five World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), providing information on their state of conservation, progress made and challenges encountered;

4. Remains concerned about the security situation in the east of the country in early 2025, affecting the implementation of the Convention, in particular Article 4, by the State Party, especially in Virunga and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks, located in the east and close to the conflicts, as well as in Okapi Wildlife Reserve, located slightly further northeast of the country, and encourages the State Party to continue and intensify its efforts to ensure the continuity of conservation actions in its properties;

5. Notes with appreciation the commendable efforts of the State Party through the central management authority, in particular the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), to maintain conservation achievements in areas that are still accessible and to continue to implement the corrective measures despite the difficult context, and strongly encourages the State Party to continue to strengthen the capacity of ICCN to ensure the safety of its staff while on duty and the effective management of its properties in times of conflict;

6. Also encourages the State Party to urgently take steps to organize, in cooperation with UNESCO and its partners, a national workshop on heritage protection in conflict zones in the DRC, as highlighted in Decisions **45 COM 7A.8** and **46 COM 7A.50**;

7. Takes note of the progress made in respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in accordance with the recommendations of the report of the Commission of Inquiry into alleged violations by ICCN staff at Kahuzi-Biega National Park (PNKB), as well as those of the 2019 Bukavu Dialogue in favour of the Batwa, and further encourages the State Party to continue, at the level of all World Heritage properties in the DRC, ongoing actions to train all staff on human rights issues and to involve IPLCs in property management processes, in accordance with international standards and the 2015 Policy on World Heritage and Sustainable Development;

8. Recalls, however, the 2022 Decision (Communication 588/15) of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), and urges the State Party to implement all the actions set out in that decision, in the interest of preserving the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and respecting the rights of the Batwa communities of Kahuzi-Biega;

9. Expresses its deepest concern about the continuing threats to World Heritage properties in the DRC from oil and mining exploitation, in particular the failure to cancel the 2022 tender for oil exploitation in blocks overlapping Virunga National Park, and the continued presence of active mining sites within Okapi Wildlife Reserve, reiterates its position that gas, oil and mining exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, a policy supported by commitments made by leaders of these industries not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties and urges once again the State Party to cancel all oil block concessions and mining concessions that encroach on World Heritage properties;

10. Also notes the progress made in the state of conservation of Garamba National Park, as well as the new nomination of the property to the World Heritage List submitted by the State Party in January 2025, and emphasises that a field assessment mission led by IUCN will be carried out there in the near future;

11. Also notes the current challenges related to conservation funding, particularly with the withdrawal of key financial partners such as USAID, which contributes significantly to certain properties in the DRC, including Salonga National Park, and calls on the international community to further support the State Party in its ongoing efforts to protect all World Heritage properties on its territory, which are facing various security, environmental, social but also financial challenges;

12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, a separate detailed report on this General Decision addressing cross-cutting issues relating to the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties in the DRC and the implementation of the 2011 Kinshasa Declaration, with particular emphasis on the implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

9. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.9

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.5** and **46 COM 7A.47** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes positively the efforts made by the State Party and its partners to implement the majority of the corrective measures, notably in the areas of surveillance, ecological monitoring, transboundary cooperation and support for riparian communities, as well as the adoption of the 2025-2029 Business Plan, and encourages the continuation of these initiatives in order to ensure the effective management of the property;

4. Commends the positive trends observed in the populations of Kordofan's elephants and giraffes, although still below the levels recorded at the time of inscription of the property, as well as the reduction in poaching, requests the State Party to strengthen surveillance patrols in view of the increase in incursions by poachers and transhumant herders, particularly in the northern part of the property;

5. Takes note of the aerial survey planned for 2025 to confirm trends of key species in the property and also requests the State Party to ensure that the monitoring methodologies allow for the collection of comparable data over time, and to share the results of the inventory, once completed, with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

6. Taking note of the Giraffe Conservation Action Plan 2020-2024, also encourages the State Party to undertake a technical assessment of its implementation and to take the necessary steps to update it, in consultation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group, if necessary;

7. Reiterating once again its utmost concern about the likely extinction of the northern white rhino subspecies within the property due to the lack of evidence of its presence since 2008, also takes note of the transfer of a first group of 16 specimens of the southern white rhino subspecies in June 2023, and the submission of risk assessment reports carried out in 2018 and 2021;

8. Notes with concern the absence of an updated feasibility study incorporating the comments of the 2022 IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission (AfrRSG SSC), as well as the risk management strategy referred to in the state of conservation report, and further requests the State Party to submit these

documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, and to ensure that future translocations of species are carried out on the basis of the AfrRSG's formal technical advice and in accordance with IUCN's Guidelines for in situ reintroduction and translocation of African and Asian rhinoceroses;

9. Expresses its concern about the constraints related to the relocation of artisanal mining sites and the slow progress in validating the Artisanal Mining Zones (ZEA), as well as the limited progress in finalising the Land Use Plan (LUP), and urges the State Party to accelerate these processes in order to reduce as soon as possible the impact of illegal mining on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

10. Notes with satisfaction the strengthening of cross-border cooperation with South Sudan and the technical support planned in 2025 by African Parks for the ENJOJO Foundation, and reiterates its request to the two States Parties (Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan) to speed up the drafting and signing of a formal memorandum of understanding and to strengthen joint initiatives, such as patrols and data exchanges, to ensure the effectiveness of this cooperation;

11. Notes the information on the progress towards achieving the indicators of the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) proposed by the 2016 mission, regrets that the sources of verifications have not been included and further encourages the State Party to continue its efforts and to use the data from the inventory planned for 2025 to finalise the DSOCR indicators, including the necessary sources of verifications of progress, before possible approval by the Committee;

12. Also notes the new nomination of the property for listing on the World Heritage List submitted by the State Party in January 2025, stresses that an IUCN evaluation mission will visit the property before November 2025 to examine its state of conservation (in relation to the new criteria and attributes presented), the challenges it faces and to make recommendations to the State Party and the World Heritage Committee;

13. 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;

14. **Decides to maintain Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

10. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.6** and **46 COM 7A.48**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th session (New Delhi, 2024), respectively,

3. Welcomes the progress made in implementing measures to strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in accordance with the recommendations of the 2022 report of the Commission of Inquiry on alleged violations by members of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature - ICCN) in Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Parc national de Kahuzi-Biega - PNKB), as well as the recommendations of the 2019 Bukavu Dialogue in

favor of the Batwa, and urges the State party to continue to fully implement these recommendations, while ensuring that its progress is fully integrated into the park management policies and that IPLCs participate in a transparent and inclusive manner in decision-making processes;

4. Recalls the 2022 Decision (Communication 588/15) of the “African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights” (ACHPR), and also urges the State Party to implement all the measures requested in this decision, which are essential to ensure respect of the rights of the Batwa communities of Kahuzi-Biega and the preservation of the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

5. Also welcomes the efforts made by the State party to continue the implementation of the 2017 corrective measures, including the evacuation of armed groups and the strengthening of technical and human capacities, and also requests the State party to pursue this positive momentum;

6. Expresses its deep concern about the significant decline in monitoring coverage, from 61% in 2021 to only 30% in 2024, despite efforts to combat illegal activities in the property, and encourages the State Party to further strengthen surveillance efforts and to accelerate the implementation of ongoing capacity-building plans, including proactive management of career plans for eco-guards, in order to ensure adequate staffing levels at all times and to maintain surveillance coverage at a minimum of 60% of the property;

7. Also notes the increase in the number of Judicial Police Officers (Officiers de police judiciaire - OPJ) with the swearing-in of 19 new OPJs, bringing their total to 54, regrets that only 12 of the 31 judicial cases related to conservation crimes, including illegal logging, poaching, ivory trafficking and mining, were closed in 2024, and also encourages the State party to accelerate judicial capacity-building and establish a transparent monitoring system for cases related to conservation crimes;

8. Expresses its concern about the involvement of eco-guards in the commission of conservation crimes, and further urges the State Party to take specific measures to put an end to these acts, which are incompatible with the purpose of protecting the biodiversity of the property, while continuing to improve the living and working conditions of eco-guards;

9. Noting that a project to build infrastructure for administrative staff and eco-guards, supported by an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), is underway, also expresses its concern about the lack of specific details on the size and location of the buildings and, therefore, their potential impact on the property’s OUV, and further requests that the ESIA be carried out in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, and that the results be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical advice by IUCN before any decision is taken;

10. Further notes the surveillance and restoration activities in degraded habitats within the ecological corridor, supported by the Governor's decree strengthening the enforcement of Law 14, also regrets the lack of details on the extent of the areas restored or on the ecological impact of these actions, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit a detailed report on the implementation of the rehabilitation plan reported in 2022;

11. Also noting that inventories of large mammals, including gorillas (exclusively in the high-altitude sector), were carried out in 2024, further regrets the lack of details on the methodology used and the species targeted, and requests moreover the State Party to submit the results of the inventories to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they become available in 2025, and to use these data to guide conservation strategies, including the finalization, as soon as possible, of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) indicators, followed by the definition of the actions necessary for its implementation;

12. 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;

13. **Decides to maintain Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

11. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.11

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.7** and **46 COM 7A.49**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions, respectively,

3. Regrets that the State of conservation report submitted by the State Party provides very little information in response to Decisions **45 COM 7A.7** and **46 COM 7A.49**, and stresses that this lack of information makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the property, given the significant threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

4. Notes with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the State Party to strengthen surveillance, with coverage reaching 73.18% in 2024, the evacuation of certain armed groups and the closure of several mining sites within the property, expresses its deep concern regarding the recent deterioration of the security situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and strongly encourages the State Party to continue and strengthen its conservation efforts in collaboration with the Armed Forces of the DRC and its national and regional partners, and to resort to alternative solutions, including appropriate diplomatic channels, to enable conservation activities to continue in a secure environment;

5. Notes with concern the persistence of artisanal and semi-industrial mining within and in the legally disputed areas of the property, regrets that the establishment of a joint commission between the Mining Cadaster (Cadastre Minier - CAMI) and the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature - ICCN), previously requested to resolve the issue of overlapping mining permits in the western part of the property, remains pending, and urges the State Party to implement an immediate moratorium on all industrial and artisanal mining activities in the legally disputed areas until the boundaries of the property have been definitively clarified and the maps used by these two institutions have been definitively harmonized;

6. Notes with concern the increasing indirect impacts of mining within and around the property in recent years, including pollution and deforestation, as illustrated by a loss of forest cover of more than 5,000 hectares since 2022 in the southern part of the property, along the Ituri River, and strongly reiterates its request to revoke all mining permits attributed within the property, to close all mining sites inside the property and access roads to them, and to initiate restoration activities in the degraded areas;

7. Notes that essential management tools for the property, such as the Development and Management Plan (Plan d'aménagement et de gestion - PAG), the Community Strategy and the Guidelines for Access to Natural Resource are under development, and encourages the State Party to expedite these processes and submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre once they have been validated;

8. Takes note that the participatory demarcation process of the western boundary of the property will continue in 2025 and reiterates its request to the State Party to expedite and complete this process as soon as possible;

9. Thanks the technical and financial partners who support the conservation of the property, and once again appeals to the international community to further support the efforts of the State Party to ensure sustainable financing of the property;

10. Once again requests the State party to provide further details on:

    a) The number of residents within the villages located inside the property in order to assess the impacts of population increases on land-use in the property,

    b) The Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) data to enable an assessment of the impact of illegal activities on the OUV of the property,

    c) The formalization of the Central Integral Conservation Zone,

    d) The plans to capture okapi from the wild to repopulate the okapi breeding station, recalling that the State Party should develop an integrated in-situ and ex-situ conservation strategy within the framework of the PAG, drawing on expert advice on best practices,

    e) The progress accomplished with regard to the indicators defined in the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

11. Also requests the State party to continue its efforts to implement all corrective measures as updated by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission;

12. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite, as soon as security conditions allow, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, the status of increased threats and impacts from mining and associated illegal activities, the implementation of the corrective measures and the progress made in relation to the DSOCR indicators;

13. 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;

14. **Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring mechanism for the property;**

15. **Also decides to maintain Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

12. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.8** and **46 COM 7A.50**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th session (New Delhi, 2024), respectively,

3. Expresses once again its deep concern regarding the continuing instability in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and its serious consequences for access to

the property, the implementation of conservation actions and the increase in human encroachment within the property;

4. Commends the resilience of the State Party, through the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (Institut congolais pour la conservation de la nature – ICCN), faced with this difficult context, and the ongoing efforts to maintain conservation achievements in accessible areas, in particular through the continued implementation of the corrective measures updated in 2018, and strongly encourages the State Party to continue and intensify its efforts to ensure the continuity of conservation actions and the full implementation of the corrective measures;

5. Notes with appreciation the ongoing surveillance efforts (land, lake and air), the involvement of local communities and collaboration with local judicial authorities, as well as the establishment of a bilingual complaint management mechanism, contributing to better governance of the property while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts in accessible areas while ensuring a rights-based approach, fully involving all stakeholders;

6. Notes positively the reported increase in elephant, hippo and other large mammal populations between 2014 and 2023, as well as the reduction in the number of arrests related to poaching in 2024 in accessible areas of the property, and also requests the State Party to continue to fight against poaching and monitor Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) flagship species in accessible areas (in close collaboration with community trackers), while adopting standardized methodologies;

7. However, expresses its concern regarding the increase in human encroachment, from 12% (2021) to 14.2% (2024), and the pressure on the natural resources of the property, including by armed groups, seriously threatening the integrity and OUV of the property;

8. Takes note of the reintroduction of four female gorillas at Mount Tshiaberimu in October 2024, recalls that any species reintroduction operation must comply with international standards and be based on the advice of relevant specialists from the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and urges the State Party to provide details on this operation and the measures taken or planned to ensure its long-term success;

9. Also recalling the importance of ecological corridors for the sustainable preservation of the OUV of the property, appreciates the continued collaboration with the State Party of Uganda for the monitoring of these corridors and key species, and encourages the State Party to maintain regional collaboration efforts, particularly within the framework of the “Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration”;

10. Welcomes the reduction in arrests for illegal charcoal production and dependence on charcoal by destroying production kilns, introducing electric cookers and reforesting 1,500 hectares, and also encourages the State party to continue to develop sustainable energy and economic alternatives, in collaboration with its partners;

11. Regrets that the approved Development and Management Plan (Plan d’Aménagement et de Gestion - PAG) 2021-2025 has not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre as requested, and further requests the State Party to promptly initiate the process of updating the plan and to submit the updated version to the World Heritage Centre after final approval;

12. Also takes note of the revised schedule for the implementation of the corrective measures proposed for 2025, thanks the technical and financial partners who continue to support the conservation of the property in a challenging international funding climate, including UNESCO with funding from Norway, and invites the State Party and its partners to continue to mobilize sustainable funding for the conservation of the property;

13. Further requests the State Party to respond to the additional requests expressed in Decisions **46 COM 7A.50** and **45 COM 7A.8**, in particular concerning:

a) The situation of the two oil blocks overlapping the property (for which the 2022 tender has not yet been cancelled),

b) Civil and military infrastructure developments within or around the property, including hydropower projects and road developments;

c) The joint organization with UNESCO and its partners of a national workshop on heritage protection in conflict zones in the DRC;

14. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, as soon as the security situation allows, to assess the state of conservation of the property, the implementation of the corrective measures and progress towards achieving the indicators of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

15. 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;

16. **Decides to maintain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

13. Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.47** , **45 COM 7A.10** and **46 COM 7A.51,** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property in a timely manner, and notes with concern that this makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the property, given the significant conservation threats it faces;

4. Recalling the adoption of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) in Decision **46 COM 7A.51**, takes note of the refinement reportedly made following the 2024 Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)/African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) workshop in Morocco and requests the State Party to provide clarification on the reported refinement and to submit the proposed revised DSOCR to the World Heritage Centre for adoption by the Committee, after consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on the proposed amendments;

5. Thanks the State Party of Norway and other partners for the financial support provided to the State Party to implement the corrective measures, and also requests the State Party to continue these efforts and report on the progress made towards achieving the DSOCR and the implementation of the 2020 mission recommendations, including the transboundary dam issues with Ethiopia;

6. Further requests the State Party to provide updated information on the implementation of Decision **45 COM 7A.8**;

7. 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;

8. **Decides to retain Lake Turkana National Parks (Kenya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

14. Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar)

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. Takes note 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. Notes, however, 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. Notes with appreciation the relatively few signs of poaching and the increase in sightings of the majority of lemur populations in the property, and nevertheless expresses its concern about the reported decrease in sightings of some species in 2024, notably *Eulemur cinereiceps, Eulemur collaris* and *Varecia rubra*;

8. Notes with concern that gold mining in Ranomafana and gemstone mining in Zahamena is not yet under control, also takes note 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 recalls the Committee's position on the incompatibility of mining with World Heritage status;

9. Noting the commitment of the State Party to implement all the recommendations made by the 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission, considers that the property can be removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

10. **Decides to remove the Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;**

11. Requests 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. 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.

15. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.12** and **46 COM 7A.53,** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party, in collaboration with its technical and financial partners (TFPs), despite a difficult security situation and limited resources, in particular in the implementation of certain corrective measures, the development of strategic planning tools, and the implementation of the emergency plan and the 2022-2024 Development and Management Plan (PAG);

4. Noting the expiry of the PAG in 2024, encourages the State Party to immediately launch the process of its revision as requested in the desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), by setting up a working group to evaluate the old plan, carry out an updated diagnosis, and draw up a new plan to ensure the continuity of the management of the property, and to specify clear arrangements for its monitoring-evaluation and funding, including for the emergency plan;

5. Also encourages the State Party to continue capacity-building for eco-guards and their ongoing technical support, particularly in the operational use of the SMART tool, and to integrate the data collected into an adaptive, results-based management system;

6. Notes with appreciation the continuing absence of cases of poaching since 2022 and the dismantling of several illegal gold-panning sites, and requests the State Party to extend the spatial coverage of patrols and to involve local communities more closely in reporting information;

7. Expresses concern, however, about the persistence of illegal gold panning and illegal logging in the property, and reiterates once again its request to the State Party to provide updated maps showing the location of the main threats identified, notably illegal gold panning and illegal logging in the property, as well as information on their severity and extent, and on the actions taken to combat them;

8. Notes with satisfaction the observation of certain emblematic species showing ecological resilience, expresses its concern that the situation of certain species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains of great concern, and also requests the State Party to develop a rigorous ecological monitoring protocol, as indicated in the DSOCR, covering the key species of OUV, as well as a protocol for the systematic analysis of data to generate reliable indicators on fauna and human pressure;

9. Notes the availability of a strategy and action plan for the conservation of red-necked ostriches and dama gazelles, as well as the 2023-2032 roadmap for the conservation of the dama gazelle, and further requests for their operationalization to be supported by adequate funding, effective implementation and monitoring mechanisms, and strengthened coordination with the specialist groups of IUCN's Species Survival Commission;

10. While regretting the absence of a strategy to combat invasive alien species (IAS) in the property, notes positively the efforts made by the State Party, in collaboration with local communities, to combat IAS through the clearing and carbonization of *Prosopis juliflora*, as well as the restoration of degraded land, and requests furthermore that these efforts be accompanied by monitoring of the regeneration of native flora, in ongoing collaboration with local communities to monitor and maintain restored areas;

11. Also notes the current absence of mining permits in the south-eastern boundary of the property, although the risk of future allocation remains, and urges the State Party:

    a) To avoid all mining activity within its perimeter and buffer zone, in line with the Committee's position that gas, oil and mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status,

    b) Systematically assess the impacts of any mining project on OUV through Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, and

submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decision is taken;

12. Expresses its deep concern about the limited human and financial capacities of the management unit for the property, further encourages the State Party to strengthen the technical, human and financial resources of this unit on a sustainable basis and reiterates its appeal to the international community and TFPs to provide greater support for the State Party's efforts to ensure sustainable funding for the successful implementation of corrective measures and the achievement of the DSOCR;

13. 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, including the progress made towards the achievement of the DSOCR indicators, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;

14. **Decides to maintain Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

16. Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.16**, **44 COM 7A.51**, **45 COM 7A.14** and **46 COM 7A.55** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Expresses its utmost concern that the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) is now fully operational with all nine turbines activated in April 2025, despite the utmost concerns and positions of the Committee, over the irreversible impact of continued implementation of the JNHPP on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and the clear position that the construction of dams with large reservoirs within the boundaries of World Heritage properties is incompatible with their World Heritage status;

4. Regrets that no information was provided regarding the previously reported flooding and its impacts on communities, including loss of life and crops, downstream of the JNHPP following the discharge of water from the dam as well as any mitigation measures taken;

5. Acknowledges the 58% reduction in the Kidunda Dam's inundation area, but notes with concern the ecological risks of the remaining flooded reserve land within the property on migratory species, wetland ecosystems, and the Selous-Wami Mbiki seasonal migration corridor;

6. Also expresses its utmost concern that the State Party has reportedly commenced construction of the Kidunda Dam project, despite the Committee's request not to proceed with any decision that would be difficult to reverse, including to approve the project, before a new Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been undertaken, also notes with concern that the new ESIA submitted in 2024 does not assess the potential impacts of the Kidunda dam project on the OUV of the property, nor does it consider the cumulative effects of the dam with other developments such as the JNHPP on the Rufiji River's hydrology and the property's ecological resilience;

7. Urges the State Party to suspend the Kidunda Dam project implementation and continue dialogue with the Secretariat and Advisory Bodies on the revision of the existing ESIA in

line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, to include a comprehensive assessment of impacts on OUV and cumulative effects and agreed actions to address actual and potential impacts on OUV, prior to any resumption of project activities;

8. Further recalling the State Party's commitment to ensuring that previously planned major developments, including the suspended Mkuju uranium mine, would be subject to a new ESIA process should they be considered in the future, expresses its deep concern over the awarding of a driling contract by the Tanzanian Mining Commission and the reported commencement of drilling for the Mkuju Uranium Project without a new ESIA having been undertaken as requested by the Committee, and urgently requests the State Party to suspend all operations immediately until the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property have been rigorously assessed in line with the aforementioned guidelines and the ESIA submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

9. Recalling that the State Party has invited the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and urges again the State Party to organize this mission as soon as possible, to assess amongst other matters, the status of the elephant population, the impacts of the JNHPP implemented within the property, as well as of various other construction projects on the OUV of the property, as it was inscribed on the World Heritage List, and assess future scenarios for the property, including options to conserve the wider Selous-Niassa ecosystem;

10. 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;

11. **Decides to retain Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

17. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.41**, **44 COM 7A.28**, **45 COM 7A.51** and **46 COM 7A.37** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) session, its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) session respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the implementation of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFiT) project “Sustainable Management of the Bamiyan World Heritage property – Preparing the removal of Bamiyan from the List of World Heritage in Danger”, the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust projects “Preservation and Promotion of the Bamiyan Valley through Culture-Oriented Sustainable Development” and “Local Community Empowerment and Preservation of Shahr-e Ghulghulah, the World Heritage site in Bamiyan” and their

contribution to the progress in achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as well as to generate employment opportunities in the country;

4. Considering the United Nations Strategic Framework for Afghanistan (UNSFA), recommends that activities continue focusing on assistance to achieve the DSOCR, including the operational activities, the revision of the Action Plan and timeline, as well as documentation and research activities, and to ensure that the projects be implemented in line with the corrective measures adopted in Decision **31 COM 7A.21**;

5. Considering the prevailing situation in the country, recommends that all stakeholders be informed on the scope and objectives of the Convention and the requirement to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

6. Recommends that the technical requirements outlined by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS for the mitigation of adverse effects of the road development project to Ghulghulah Bazaar, the proposed revision of the 'Bamiyan Energy Supply project', and the possible reinstalment of the "Old Bazaar" destroyed in the 1990s be addressed; and requests to comply fully with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and not to take any decision that would be difficult to reverse before submitting detailed documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and obtaining the approval of the Committee;

7. Requests the adoption of the recommendations suggested by ICOMOS for the revision of the Strategic Master Plan in order to ensure legal protection and a holistic management approach of the property as a cultural landscape, promoting the involvement of local communities and addressing the necessary modification of the buffer zones with a land use scheme, in order to address the issue of uncontrolled urban development within the Bamiyan Valley, which would place threats to the OUV of the property;

8. Reiterates its request to respect the provisions of the international treaties ratified by Afghanistan, such as the 1954 Convention, 1970 Convention and 1972 Convention, as well as the 2015 UNESCO Recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity and their role in society, and recommends to:

   a) Ensure regular verification of the state of moveable heritage and keep up proper inventories of all significant artefacts, including those housed at the Cultural Centre,

   b) Closely monitor the commercial activities within the inscribed area and buffer zones,

   c) Carefully review the project of reinstating the "Old Bazaar" destroyed in the 1990s at its original location, having regard to potential alternative locations and appropriate design, materials, and planning in the context of the finalization of the Draft Management Plan;

9. Requests the international community to continue providing support for the protection of cultural objects and cultural sites within the property, and recommends that the Bamiyan Working Group coordinate these technical activities as part of its established meetings and ensure information sharing with the academic and scientific communities;

10. Reaffirms its solidarity with the Afghan people, expresses again its strong commitment to safeguarding Afghanistan's heritage, and reiterates its call to all concerned parties to observe international humanitarian law and international instruments relating to the protection of heritage, so that all the diversity in heritage that constitutes an integral part of Afghanistan's history and culture can be preserved;

11. Finally requests that, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;

12. **Decides to retain Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

18. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7A.42**, **44 COM 7A.29**, **45 COM 7A.52**, and **46 COM 7A.38** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Expresses its deep concern regarding the current situation in Afghanistan in terms of humanitarian, educational and cultural environments and the challenges faced by the national and international communities, including the United Nations system, in effectively implementing technical assistance activities for heritage conservation, and notes with concern that this situation, combined with natural disasters, has added another layer of difficulty for the implementation of conservation work at the property, based on the 2017 Conservation Action Plan (CAP) and the corrective measures adopted in 2007 in Decision **31 COM 7A.20**;

4. Notes with appreciation the installation of a monitoring system at the Minaret and recommends that regular data collection be ensured to monitor the inclination of the Minaret;

5. Welcomes the deployment of security personnel on the ground to prevent illicit trafficking;

6. Also notes with appreciation that the UNESCO project funded by the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), coordinated by the UNESCO Office in Kabul in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, has contributed to the implementation of some of the adopted corrective measures;

7. Recommends pursuing additional technical studies in elaborating and prioritising activities for an update of the CAP by identifying the most urgent and feasible actions in light of the current situation, the potential impact and long-term mitigation measures of recurring flooding in the future, and, to the extent possible, their benefit for local communities;

8. Recommends the establishment of a comprehensive data collection system to track readings from monitoring instruments installed on the Minaret and to document the performance of river embankment structures, enabling analysis of long-term erosion effects on the property that are expected to intensify due to climate change impacts;

9. Reiterates its requests to continue implementing the following:

    a) Emergency stabilisation work for the wooden staircases to prevent further weakening of the Minaret's structure,

    b) Construction of a suspended bridge over the Hari Rud and the reconstruction of the site office at the property outside the Minaret and outside the World Heritage property to improve access to the property and site security for all concerned public, giving due consideration to the risk of flooding,

c) Hydraulic study with monitoring of the height and flow of the Hari Rud and Jam Rud rivers to inform the possible long-term mitigation and protective measures to address their recurring floodings;

10. Encourages that the activities for the property, including the ALIPH-funded project, focus on the elements suggested for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

11. Regrets that the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone remain to be precisely defined, and reiterates its request to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, taking into consideration the topographical map produced in 2012 as well as the drone survey of 2024 to facilitate the delineation of these boundaries, in conformity with the CAP;

12. Requests the allocation of necessary resources for the safeguarding of the property to address conservation issues, including the proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, the establishment of the overall action plan for the CAP as well as capacity-building;

13. Acknowledges the role of UNESCO to monitor the prevailing on-site situation and implement essential work supported by international assistance;

14. Reaffirms its solidarity with the Afghan people, expresses again its strong commitment to safeguarding Afghanistan's heritage, and reiterates its call to all concerned parties to observe international humanitarian law and international instruments relating to the protection of heritage so that all the diversity of heritage that constitutes an integral part of Afghanistan's culture can be preserved;

15. Requests the international community to provide support to the Afghan people in preserving their heritage and cultural rights;

16. Finally requests that, by **1 February 2026**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;

17. **Decides to retain Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

19. Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of))

Decision: 47 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.39**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes continuing progress with actions to manage the property and protect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including further removal of intrusive and threatening vegetation, pending adoption and implementation of the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of Nan Madol World Heritage Site and the Sustainable Tourism Plan, the "Tree and Vegetation Management Review and Recommendations" report, and the process established for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in conformity with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*;

4. Takes note of the updated information provided regarding the appointment of a Site/Property Manager, the issues for Pohnpei State identified through review of

legislation LB392 and the protection provided to the property by Pohnpei State historic preservation laws under Pohnpei State Code, but nevertheless reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to address and implement previously identified matters of high priority, including:

a) Continuing implementation of vegetation management actions and clearing mangroves from the main canals,

b) Appointing and establishing a long-term commitment to the position of Site/Property Manager,

c) Ensuring that effective legal protection is provided to the property, including appropriate management arrangements, consistent with the commitments made by the State Party at the time of the inscription of the property, noting that this may be achieved through review and revisions to the Pohnpei State Code,

d) Adopting and implementing the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of the Nan Madol World Heritage Site, and the Sustainable Tourism Plan;

5. Also takes note that a draft HIA has been prepared for the tourism resort on Nahnhingi Island, within the buffer zone of the property, and requests the State Party to confirm that construction activity on this project has ceased, that the issues raised in the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review will be addressed, and that the HIA will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before work on this project resumes;

6. Recalls its previous request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed and ongoing projects, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to the approval and/or implementation of any project, including significant conservation programmes;

7. Also requests the State Party to afford priority to the opening, resourcing and operation of the recently completed Visitor Centre;

8. Takes note with satisfaction of the effective process undertaken by the State Party, World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to prepare the proposed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), set of corrective measures yet to be completed and a timeframe for their completion;

9. Adopts the DSOCR, corrective measures and timeframe, as follows:

a) DSOCR:

(i) Intrusive Vegetation has been removed from canals which provide access to the five target islets (1. Nan Dowas, 2. Pein Kitel, 3. Idehd, 4. Pei Kapw, and 5. Pahn Kedira),

(ii) Major intrusive trees have been removed or stabilized from five target island/islets,

(iii) Silted canals waterways have been cleared,

(iv) A long-term plan is in place to manage silting of canals,

(v) Retaining Walls on the five target islets have been repaired and are stable,

(vi) The maintenance programme extends to the five target islets and to the full area of the inscribed property as is feasible for keeping waterways navigable,

(vii) Processes are in place for heritage impact assessment of proposed actions,

(viii) A strategy has been prepared to address the impacts of Climate Change, including sea level rise and stronger wave action,

(ix) The management system is fully operational, including clarity of governance roles,

(x) Acknowledgement of Nahnmwarki in management of Nan Madol in due time,

(xi) A permanent Site Manager has been appointed,

(xii) A human resource strategy is in place,

(xiii) The Pohnpei State Code has been reviewed and revised if and as necessary to ensure that the property has adequate statutory protection and effective management,

(xiv) A risk preparedness strategy has been prepared and adopted,

(xv) Visitor carrying capacity has been determined,

(xvi) The Visitor Center is open and fully functional,

(xvii) Visitor circulation is defined and operational,

(xviii) Pedestrian Footpaths and access bridges are in useable condition;

b) Corrective measures to be implemented:

(i) Intrusive Vegetation:

- Instigate long-term vegetation management regime,
- Direct funding for vegetation management to HPO,

(ii) Silting of Canals:

Based on the Master Plan for the Sustainable Conservation of Nan Madol World Heritage site:

- Ensure navigation capabilities of the major canals for tourism and local community needs,
- Follow archaeological requirements for physical works to canals,
- Improve knowledge of the original depth of the canals, and how the silting process happened through calls for research,

(iii) Retaining Walls:

- Prevent further decay and achieve long term sustainability of retaining walls,
- Based on a technical survey, develop a long-term strategy for conservation of the retaining walls,

(iv) Climate Change:

- Prepare a strategy for a sustainable response to the impacts of climate change,
- Address impacts on visitor operations from climate change effects, through appropriate provisions in tourism plan,

(v) Absence of fully functioning management system:

- Appoint full time Site Manager, in a sustainable (funded) manner with position description in place,
- Identify 'gaps' in existing statutory protection and amend Pohnpei State Code to address these gaps, including attributes that support OUV, heritage impact assessment and other requirements arising from World Heritage inscription,

- Develop risk preparedness strategy,
- Determine a long-term capacity building strategy, identifying external specialists and instigating a local training programme,
- Establish and amend Pohnpei State Code to include a heritage impact assessment process, as per *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* (UNESCO et al. 2022),
- Define human resource needs for conservation and management,

(vi) Visitor Center:

- Work with municipal and State government to enable opening of Visitor Center,
- Work with Tourism Office to direct tourist traffic (including tour operators) to the Visitor Center,

(vii) Visitor Circulation and Pedestrian Footpaths and Bridges:

- Prepare and implement visitor circulation plan,
- Improve footpaths and bridges,

(viii) Changes to traditional chiefly institutions and systems of governance:

- Update Nahnmwarki on guiding legislation for care of Nan Madol,

c) Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures:

(i) The implementation of corrective measures should be completed within a period of five years;

10. Calls upon the international community to support the State Party in the implementation of the above-mentioned corrective measures;

11. 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;

12. **Decides to retain Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Micronesia (Federated States of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

20. Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.48, 41 COM 7A.57, 42 COM 7A.4** and **44 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,

3. Also recalling Decision **43 COM 7A.44** (Baku, 2019), in which the Committee allowed the State Party two years to explore possible options for a significant boundary modification (SBM) or a new nomination in order to consider again whether the property should be retained on the World Heritage List for a further period if a clear way forward has been proposed, or to delete the property, and had furthermore urged the State Party

to develop a restoration plan with sufficient details to allow appropriate assessment of the potential for each option to justify Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) before proceeding with any work on a SBM or on a new nomination and further encouraged the State Party to seek upstream advice from the Advisory Bodies;

4. Further recalling Decision **45 COM 7A.54** (Riyadh, 2023), in which the Committee concluded that the proposal submitted by the State Party should be explored further while retaining the property on the World Heritage List at that stage, and encouraged the State Party to further explore the possibility of a SBM, in line with Paragraph 166 of the Operational Guidelines, and to study and present "new justification for criteria based on an OUV that would reflect a shift away from the integrity of an overall intact city and towards an ensemble of Timurid monuments, with the urban areas seen as their essential settings", while noting that it was not possible at this stage to confirm if the new proposition could be justified, recommending specific consultations on it with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on this matter;

5. Welcomes the dialogue that has been undertaken with the World Heritage Centre and the ICOMOS involving written advice and two online meetings in January and March 2025 in order to refine proposals for a SBM;

6. Also welcomes the submission of a 'Draft Outline for the Re-nomination of the Property' for a SBM, which would reduce the property to four monuments that reflect the vision and achievements of Amir Temur in developing Shakhrisyabz as an imperial capital and religious and cultural centre, while the rest of the city within the walls would become a buffer zone with surviving mahalas providing essential context for the main monuments;

7. Considers that the 'Draft Outline for the Re-nomination of the Property' provides a satisfactory approach on which to base a proposed SBM, although further work is necessary to fully substantiate the details and scope of the four monuments, to prepare a detailed comparative analysis in order to set the monuments individually and collectively within the context of other Timurid monuments both in the inscribed property and elsewhere, and to develop a restoration plan as advised by the Committee before any submission is made;

8. Agrees to allow the State Party a period of up to three years for *necessary* data gathering, archaeological surveys, research and the development of conservation and interpretation plans needed for the preparation of a dossier for the submission of a SBM (by **1 February 2029**), and to keep the property on the World Heritage List until the Committee has considered the evaluation of this proposed modification;

9. Also confirms that as the Committee has explicitly encouraged the submission of a significant boundary modification (SBM) and the overall collaboration with ICOMOS has allowed a full investigation of possible alternative approaches for such a modification, the SBM does not need to be subject to a Preliminary Assessment;

10. Notes the detailed information provided on the scope and extent of necessary conservation and that nearly all monuments are suffering to some degree from water ingress from the soil, further considers that care is needed on appropriate treatments and irreversible ones should be avoided if possible, expresses concern at the proposed silicone treatment of the extremely fragile Ak-Sarai walls which are already showing cracks from earthquakes, as it could stiffen the masonry and adversely influence its seismic resistance, and requests the State Party not to progress this treatment;

11. Further notes that as water ingress effects monuments across the city, stresses the need for this issue first to be addressed city-wide before remedial proposals for individual monuments are defined, and requests the State Party to undertake with some urgency a study to explore how the rising water table might be lowered through a drainage system around the city, as envisaged under the Integrity section in the Statement of OUV, and

which could replicate the benefits of the former traditional water management system based on canals across the property that have now been largely demolished;

12. Also notes the development of a new Master Plan and a Heritage Code and requests the State Party to submit drafts of these for review before they are finally approved;

13. 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;

14. **Decides to retain Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

21. Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.71**, **39 COM 7B.94**, **40 COM 7B.49**, **41 COM 7B.42**, **42 COM 7A.5**, **43 COM 7A.45**, **44 COM 7A.32**, **45 COM 7A.55** and **46 COM 7A.1** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the State Party on the further progress made in implementing the adopted corrective measures required to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and previous decisions of the Committee, including the operationalisation of amendments to the Federal Monuments Protection Act, the establishment of a new World Heritage Office, the appointment by the City of Vienna of a World Heritage expert to the Advisory Board for Urban Planning, Urban Design and World Heritage, and the forthcoming adoption of the STEP 2035 and the High-Rise Concept, which will re-establish the property as an exclusion zone for high-rise buildings and provide further support for conducting World Heritage-focused impact assessments;

4. Welcomes the proposed Public Space Strategy Concept for the Vienna City Centre and requests that its draft be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to finalisation, adoption and implementation;

5. Notes the information provided by the State Party that the Management Plan for the property will be reviewed after five years, also welcomes the commitment by the State Party that revisions to the Management Plan will be informed by the 2022 ICOMOS Technical Review and the findings and recommendations of the 2024 Advisory mission and recalls that in accordance with the adopted DSOCR, the efficacy of the Management Plan for the property must be demonstrated in practice through monitoring and evaluation over a period of five years;

6. Acknowledges the submission of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for a revised project for a new hotel annex project in the Schwarzenberg Garden, recalls its previous

request to the State Party not to proceed with the previous design, and also requests the State Party to:

a) Refine the current design to minimise negative impacts on the baroque layout and visual integrity of the Belvedere / Schwarzenberg complex through an iterative HIA process, which should also assess the cumulative impacts of the various projects within the Schwarzenberg Garden,

b) Ensure that all HIAs follow the methodology for evaluating and reporting the degree of impact as outlined in *the Guidance and Toolkit of Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*,

c) Provide the World Heritage Centre with further details on the proposed rehabilitation of the Schwarzenberg Garden as well as documentation on the Schwarzenberg Palace renovation project for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Appreciates the submission of the initial design plans for the planned underground visitor centre for the Upper Belvedere Palace and the associated HIA, and further requests the State Party to ensure that further iterations of the HIA follow the recommendations outlined in the ICOMOS Technical Review of April 2025, and to submit a further iteration of the HIA, following the methodology for evaluating and reporting the degree of impact as outlined in the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decisions or actions are taken that may be difficult to reverse;

8. Also notes the update provided by the State Party on the status of the Heumarkt Neu project, and reiterates its previous consideration that a further revised design proposal for the Heumarkt Neu development should be informed by the four options proposed by the 2024 Advisory mission, in order to achieve the relevant DSOCR element, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit detailed plans on the chosen design, aligned with this recommendation and a revised and updated HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review with the Advisory Bodies;

9. Further welcomes the information submitted by the State Party on the extension of the Vienna Metro system, including planned new station buildings at the ‘Rathaus’ and at ‘Frankhplatz’, and requests moreover the State Party to submit details of the proposed buildings, including the relevant impact assessments, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS before any decisions are taken that may be difficult to reverse;

10. Further notes that a number of the adopted corrective measures have yet to be completed, including, in addition to those noted above, improving the definition and mapping of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property, establishing and reporting on a monitoring and evaluation programme for the state of conservation of the property and its management, applying and extending the roof cadastre throughout the property, and ensuring the protection of historic gardens and green spaces in private ownership, and encourages the State Party to continue their implementation in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies with a view to achieving the DSOCR;

11. Further requests the State Party to consider inviting the Reactive Monitoring mission previously requested by the Committee, once the detailed plans and designs of the revised Heumarkt Neu project have been submitted and reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in order to fully assess the level of implementation of all the corrective measures and to determine whether the conditions for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger have been met;

12. 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;

13. **Decides to retain Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

22. Roșia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7A.56** and **46 COM 7A.2**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Notes that Gabriel Resources, which holds a controlling stake in the Roșia Montană Gold Corporation (RMGC), challenged on 12 July 2024 the arbitration award issued to the Government of Romania by the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes on 8 March 2024, and that the outcome of this challenge remains pending;
4. Further notes that at, a national level, the mining exploitation concession licence held by RMGC was automatically terminated on 20 June 2024 following the refusal of the National Agency for Mineral Resources (ANRMPSG) to renew the licence, but also notes that RMGC has challenged this non-renewal decision, with the case currently pending before a national court;
5. Notes with concern that these concurrent legal challenges mean that the threat of mining at the property is yet to be removed;
6. Welcomes the initiation of procedures for the transfer of control of the underground mine workings in the property from RMGC to the ANRMPSG, and recognises that, if approved, this transfer would enable the development of a detailed archaeological research plan, as requested by the Committee;
7. Further welcomes the progress made by the State Party in addressing some of the corrective measures and further notes:

    a) The operationalisation of the cooperation agreement for the development and the implementation of the General Urban Plan (PUG),

    b) The planned finalisation of the revised Management Plan in the first half of 2025,

    c) The continuation of water quality assessments and pollution mitigation planning, as well as infrastructure improvements by the Municipality of Roșia Montană,

    requests that the finalised PUG be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption, and further requests the State Party to clarify which aspects of 'heritage-sensitive urban development' will be incorporated into the Management Plan, and to submit the finalised Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to approval and implementation;
8. Recalls the necessity to carry out Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around the property, in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Also welcomes the budgetary provisions made for the assessment and rehabilitation of the Taul Mare header pond and the maintenance and monitoring plan for the entire ensemble of the historic header ponds and encourages the integration of this plan into the PUG and the Management Plan, with particular attention to disaster risk reduction;

10. 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;

11. **Decides to retain Roșia Montană Mining Landscape (Romania) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

23. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Decides to adjourn the debate on this agenda item until its next ordinary session.

24. Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Deplores the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the loss of human life;
4. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra', in particular the various protective measures it has taken, and expresses its utmost concern at the increasing potential threats facing the property in relation to the ongoing war;
5. Reiterates its call upon the Russian Federation to refrain from any action that would cause direct or indirect damage to the property, 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; and expresses its grave concern regarding the damage sustained by Saint-Sophia Cathedral during the attack on Kyiv on 10 June 2025;
6. Welcomes 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. Encourages 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. Calls 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. Reiterates its request to the State Party to amend the Management Plan for the property in accordance with the recommendations of the Technical Review by ICOMOS, and to resubmit it to the World Heritage Centre for further review before it is finalised and implemented as a matter of priority;

10. Further encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in the development and urgent implementation of an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for the property, making full use of the assistance provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies with the support of the Government of Japan;

11. Reiterates its request to the State Party to refine the use regulations for the buffer zone and wider setting to prevent the urbanization of green areas, including the slopes of the Pechora-Navodnytska hill;

12. Further invites 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, also encourages 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;

13. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare, in consultation with 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. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and the factors affecting it and to assist the State Party in establishing a DSOCR and a set of corrective measures for adoption by the Committee at one of its subsequent sessions;

15. 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;

16. **Decides to retain Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

25. L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Deplores the Russian Federation’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the loss of human life;

4. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to the protection of the World Heritage property 'L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre', in particular the various protective and monitoring measures it has taken, and expresses its utmost concern at the increasing potential threats facing the property in relation to the ongoing war;

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. Welcomes 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. Encourages 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. Calls 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. Further encourages the State Party to take full advantage of the ongoing assistance provided by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to prepare without delay a Management Plan for the property, including an emergency preparedness and response plan, and to develop 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;

10. Further invites 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 also encourages 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;

11. Reiterates its concern about the potential negative impact of the hotel project at 9 Adam Mickiewicz Square, within the property, on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and requests the State Party to clarify the status of the project;

12. Reiterates also its request to the State Party to submit the Historical and Architectural Reference Plan of Lviv to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS and to clarify its status;

13. Encourages the State Party to continue to systematically comply with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of its intention to undertake or authorise in an area protected under the Convention new constructions as well as major restorations that may affect the OUV of the property, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

14. Further requests that the State Party invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and the factors affecting it and to assist the State Party in establishing a DSOCR and a set of corrective measures for adoption by the Committee at one of its subsequent sessions;

15. 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;

16. **Decides to retain L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

26. The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.4,

2. Recalling 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. Deplores the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and the loss of human life;

4. Expresses its utmost concern about the damage caused to the property in several large-scale attacks as well as the increasing potential threats facing the property in relation to the ongoing war, and commends 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. Welcomes 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. Encourages 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. Calls 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. Takes note of the conclusions of the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and invites 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. Further encourages 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. Notes with appreciation 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 encourages furthermore 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. Further reiterates its request 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. Further invites 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 also encourages 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. 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;

16. **Decides to retain The Historic Centre of Odesa (Ukraine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

27. City of Potosi (Bolivia, Plurinational State of)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.66**, **45 COM 7A.18** and **46 COM 7A.7** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the approval and the implementation of the "Update to the Comprehensive and Participatory Management Plan of the City of Potosí – 2024";
4. Notes the delayed implementation of the "Critical Route to remove Potosí from the List of World Heritage in Danger and the preservation of Cerro Rico de Potosí," which declares the Cerro Rico in emergency status, and of the Participatory Management Plan 2021 (IPMP), and encourages the State Party to address this through the "Update to the Comprehensive and Participatory Management Plan of the City of Potosí – 2024";
5. Expresses its concern over the delayed implementation of the previous management plan and urges the State Party to ensure the full and timely implementation with adequate resources of the "Update to the Comprehensive and Participatory Management Plan of the City of Potosí – 2024";
6. Notes with appreciation the submission of the Minor Boundary Modification request to establish the property's buffer zone pursuant to Decision **44 COM 8B.66**;
7. Also notes that regulations corresponding to Law No. 473 of September 2024, which consolidates the limits for and protects the property, will be made within the city of Potosí's urban delimitation framework, and encourages the State Party to ensure the consolidation and enforcement of the legal framework and regulations related to the entire property;
8. Further notes with satisfaction the monitoring of the water quality of the lagoons and the environmental protection management of the mountain range in the Kari Kari area, under the "Update to the Comprehensive and Participatory Management Plan of the City of Potosí – 2024", and also encourages the State Party to continue it;
9. Further welcomes the actions linked to the agreement between the Autonomous Municipal Government of Potosí (GAMP) and the Tomás Frías Autonomous University for the preservation of the cultural heritage of the historical areas of the City of Potosí, including training programmes, updating legislation, and a digital database and requests the State Party to provide further information on future concrete initiatives linked to the agreement;
10. Also welcomes the archaeological survey of Cerro Rico with a photogrammetric as well as the progress achieved regarding the stabilization and monitoring of the slopes of Cerro Rico, and urges again the State Party to prioritize the definitive closure of mining sections above 4,400 meters above sea level;
11. Notes with satisfaction the technical reviews conducted by the GAMP for safeguarding reservoirs and mining facilities, and that 22 mining mills were inventoried and will be regularly inspected;

12. Expresses utmost concern for the prolonged inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger and encourages the State Party to undertake all corrective measures as set forth in the IPMP with its January 2026 deadline;

13. 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;

14. **Decides to retain City of Potosí (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

28. Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Notes that the State Party considers soliciting an extension of the loan of the Inter-American Development Bank for the management and conservation of the property until December 2027;

4. Regrets that the already revised timeframe of 2024-2026 for implementation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) was not implemented, adopts the revised timeframe for the period of 2025-2028, and urges the State Party to implement the revised workplan that has been established and corrective measures accordingly in order to achieve the DSOCR by the end of 2028;

5. Also notes the partial approval of the Land Management Plan for the town of Portobelo and requests information concerning the difficulties encountered and the implications of this partial approval for the application of the plan on the World Heritage property;

6. Further notes that a great amount of works is still to be executed at the Fortifications of San Jeronimo, San Fernando, Santiago and San Lorenzo (phase II), commends the State Party for continuous work on maintenance and conservation and for carrying out training programmes for local workers, and also requests a report on the work carried out at the fortifications;

7. Also regrets that the integrated Management Plan (IMP) is newly delayed, with a termination date in 2026, also urges the State Party to integrate the results of the Modernization Plan for Heritage Management Instruments and the Plan for institutional and administrative strengthening of the Patronato de Portobelo y San Lorenzo into the IMP, and also requests the State Party to submit the documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available;

8. Notes furthermore that the Visitor Centre at San Lorenzo will be operational in 2025;

9. 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;

10. **Decides to retain Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

29. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7A.37** and **46 COM 7A.9**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Appreciates the continued commitment of the State Party to implement the Master Plan for the Conservation and Management of the Chan Chan Archaeological Complex 2021-2031, the conservation research undertaken by the Pan-American Centre for the Conservation of Earthen Architecture and the financial contributions of other government bodies;
4. Notes the implementation of the Risk Management Plan;
5. Welcomes the many outreach and communication initiatives to raise awareness regarding responsibility and respect for cultural heritage;
6. Notes with concern the delays in the incorporation of the regulations for the buffer zone in the Metropolitan Urban Development Plan although the Ministry of Culture continues its consultations with the Municipal Authorities of Trujillo;
7. Also notes that the Ministry of Culture is actively involved in the process to amend Law 28261 which regulates the expropriation of illegal occupation in the World Heritage property and urges the State Party to conclude this process with the utmost priority;
8. Reiterates that the successful conclusion of the above two actions are essential for the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and regrets, once again, the severe delays in their completion;
9. Takes note of the creation of a Multi-sectoral Committee that would coordinate a variety of issues that are relevant for the World Heritage property and requests the State Party to provide information on the composition and mandate of this committee;
10. Highly appreciates the decision of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to contract services for the preparation in 2025 of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the improvement of the section of the El Sol Highway that crosses the World Heritage property, which should be done in conformity with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, recalls its recommendation in Decision **44 COM 7A.37** to identify a new alternative trajectory outside of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone and also requests the State Party to submit the HIA for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as soon as it becomes available;
11. 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;
12. **Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

30. Coro and its Port (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.10**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Notes the redefined Buffer Zone and reiterates its request for the final Minor Boundary Modification proposal to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and approval by the World Heritage Committee, as per Paragraphs 163 and 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as possible;
4. Welcomes the updating of the Management Plan and the important work accomplished and requests the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre an integrated version of the Management Plan as well as a report on the implementation of and compliance with the Management Plan;
5. Notes with appreciation the advances in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted in Decision **38 COM 7A.2** and requests the State Party to report on their completion in its next state of conservation report;
6. Also notes the continued work of the Joint Commission and its strategic alliances and reiterates its request for details on what harmonization of legal tools has been completed for the protection of the property;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the implementation of the corrective measures and progress towards the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);
8. 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 on the implementation of all corrective measures adopted to reach the DSOCR, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
9. **Decides to retain Coro and its Port (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

31. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Commends the State Party's tireless efforts, notably those of the Cultural Mission of Djenné, to ensure management and conservation of the property, especially to engage

local communities and secure their commitment to the objectives of heritage safeguarding, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts;

4. Notes with satisfaction the State Party's acknowledgement of the effectiveness of deterrent measures and legal procedures in reducing the number of solid construction and shutting down construction sites, and requests the State Party to strengthen the implementation of these measures while providing for initiatives to promote traditional architecture and raise awareness of its value;

5. Notes with concern the persistence of the insalubrity problem in the old urban fabric, but welcomes the ongoing commitment of local civil society, notably TAPAMA, a youth association, and 'Badenya de Dioboro', a women's association, to ensure the regular cleaning of the property, respectively, the irrigation channels that drain wastewater into the river and of the front of the Great Mosque after the Monday market, thereby contributing to maintaining sanitation in the old urban fabric, and also requests the State Party to strengthen the implementation of the measures planned by the Municipality to ensure waste collection and the emptying of dumps, to combat the stagnation of wastewater in the streets, and to raise awareness among local communities of the importance of cleanliness and appropriate behaviour;

6. Expresses its concern about the security of the four archaeological sites of Djenné-Djenno, Hambarketolo, Kaniana and Tonomba and the persistent threats of water erosion, trampling by humans and animals, and wear and tear on the security bollards, and further requests the State Party to completely redesign the protection measures for these sites, including educational and awareness-raising programmes, particularly for young people;

7. Reiterates its concern about the lack of financial resources, particularly for the Cultural Mission of Djenné and the Municipality, which affects all areas and needs related to the effective conservation and management of the property, including the security of archaeological sites, improved sanitation, assistance to families in need of help with the maintenance or rehabilitation of damaged or collapsed houses, among other things, and requests furthermore the State Party to consider all options for increasing the financial resources and allocations for the Cultural Mission and the Municipality of Djenné;

8. Notes with satisfaction the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), which will be completed by 2025, and the ongoing work to update the Management and Conservation Plan for the property, and requests the State Party to submit the latter to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. 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;

10. **Decides to maintain Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

32. Timbuktu (Mali)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.12**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the progress made with ongoing conservation of the Djingareyber and Sankoré Mosques, the rehabilitation of the enclosing walls of the Alpha Moya, Sidi Mahmoud, and Three Saints mausoleums, as well as the documentation of that work through photos and videos;

4. Welcomes the work carried out to plant over 3,300 trees and hedges around the 4 cemeteries and mausoleums as part of measures to address silting up of watercourses and thus lessen flooding, and to explain to local communities the benefits of reintroducing certain tree and plant species which are necessary to sustain traditional earthen architecture practices, but reiterates its request to develop a more expansive programme that will include:

   a) A broadened scope of the tree and hedge planting initiative for a more meaningful impact on flooding mitigation through strategic actions adapted at a regional level at the property,

   b) The planting of trees on a succession basis to ensure that they can be harvested at sizes and quantities needed,

   c) The identification of areas that are suitable and available for such planting and how the plants and trees might be maintained and managed over time,

   d) An ecological flood management strategy, based on expert knowledge on the morphology of the area, and the feasibility of its delivery, and recommends that the State Party consider submitting an application for International Assistance to that effect;

5. Reiterates its concern that the persistent lack of technical and financial resources of the Cultural Mission and traditional actors may compromise the conservation and management of the property, and reiterates its request that the State Party pay particular attention to strengthening the human and financial resources necessary for the proper functioning of the Cultural Mission;

6. Welcomes the submission of a completed Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) based on the corrective measures agreed by the Committee at its 40th session, and adopts the DSOCR, as presented under item 32 of Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2, as a framework for work needed for the property to reach a stable Desired state of conservation that could allow the Committee to consider removing it from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

7. 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;

8. **Decides to continue the application of the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism for the property;**

9. **Decides to retain Timbuktu (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

33. Tomb of Askia (Mali)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.13**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Welcomes the State Party's ongoing commitment to the conservation and management of the property and the mobilization of the various stakeholders in the city of Gao to implement the corrective measures adopted by the Committee in 2016, in particular as part of the Tomb rehabilitation project funded by the International alliance for the protection of heritage (ALIPH), which aims both to physically conserve the property and to improve its use by the faithful;
4. Takes note of the resumption of the activities carried out under this project, which has been extended until June 2025, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide and submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed documentation of each stage of the project in order to create an archive of the works, as well as the various reports, photographs of the works, site plans, topographical surveys and all documentation relating to the works of the rehabilitation project in consolidated form for consultation and examination by the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Expresses its satisfaction with the broad consultation aimed at finding a consensual solution to the occupation of the buffer zone, as well as with efforts to involve all stakeholders and local communities with the support of the Management Committee and the Mali Blue Shield Committee; encourages the State Party to continue with community consultations and awareness-raising activities; and renews its request to the State Party that it submit to it the Communication Plan developed in 2022, so that it can also explore the ways in which the World Heritage Centre might further support the State Party in its implementation;
6. Reiterates its concern regarding the lack of funding for the Gao Cultural Mission;
7. Welcomes the fact that the process of updating the Management and Conservation Plan for the property has been launched with the support of International Assistance granted by the World Heritage Fund for the purpose, which will benefit all Malian World Heritage properties; it also welcomes the progress made in drafting the State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and requests that it be finalized within the framework of the remaining consultations during 2025 with a view to its adoption at the 48th session;
8. 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;
9. **Decides to retain Tomb of Askia (Mali) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

ARAB STATES

34. Abu Mena (Egypt)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **25COM X.3-4**, **45 COM 8B.57** and **46 COM 7A.14**, adopted at its 25th (Helsinki, 2001), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024), sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts in implementing the corrective measures, and particularly:
   a) Consolidating the archaeological features of the property,
   b) Establishing a monitored system to stabilise the ground water table, the efficacy of which has been confirmed through continuous periodic measurements, and confirmed by the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission,
   c) Updating the Management Plan in response to the Technical Review undertaken by ICOMOS;
4. Notes the conclusions and recommendations contained in 2025 Reactive Monitoring mission report, and requests that the State Party consider the conclusions and implement all of its recommendations;
5. Considers that the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSCOR) has been met and congratulates the State Party for achieving this important milestone;
6. **Decides to remove Abu Mena (Egypt) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;**
7. Acknowledges the State Party's commitments to:
   a) Revise and implement the Conservation Plan following its review by the Advisory Bodies,
   b) Ensure adequate and continuous financial resources for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including for the operation and maintenance of the water table management installations,
   c) Notify of any development included in the Conservation Plan to the World Heritage Centre, accompanied by Heritage Impact Assessments, to the World Heritage Centre,

   and also requests that no decisions be made on the implementation of such projects until agreement has been reached on their details with the World Heritage Centre, advised by the Advisory Bodies,
8. Further requests that the State Party to adapt the Conservation Plan, and if needed, the Management Plan, to accommodate the recommendations of the forthcoming ICOMOS Technical Review of the Conservation Plan to ensure their appropriateness to the maintenance of the property's OUV;
9. Requests furthermore that the State Party establish mechanisms that guarantee the effective management of the immediate and wider settings of the property in a way that

is supportive of the property's OUV and the maintenance of the rural character of the property's surroundings, either through the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification for the property that proposes a buffer zone to this effect, or through the establishment of other legally binding mechanisms;

10. Also requests the State Party to:

    a) Provide a detailed update on the ongoing conservation actions undertaken at the property,

    b) Provide the monitoring records of the water table level,

    c) Confirm the protective designation of the entire property through explicit legal protection;

11. 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.

35. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.35

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.15,** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts towards the preparation of the previously requested Conservation and Management Plans, as also recommended by the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and reiterates its request to prepare these documents that are needed to guide the conservation and management of the property, as soon as possible in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

4. Recalling that the property has been suffering from water seepage, humidity and environmental degradation for a considerable time, also encourages the State Party to pursue consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to prioritise urgent maintenance and stabilisation actions for damaged and deteriorated components, while also recalling that emergency stabilisation work should only be undertaken in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent and according to the principle of minimal intervention;

5. Notes with appreciation the efforts undertaken by the State Party to protect the property, including the prevention of uncontrolled access and the installation of a protective fence, and requests the State Party to afford priority and allocate required resources to enable implementation of the remaining recommendations of the 2022 mission, with particular regard to:

    a) Carrying out regular maintenance activities, following testing in a pilot area and monitoring over a certain period,

    b) Submitting a detailed report on all planned and ongoing interventions carried out and their priority to the World Heritage Centre, noting that all interventions must be integrated into the comprehensive conservation plan for the property;

6. Welcomes the further advice regarding the Makhool Dam project, but also urges the State Party to provide definitive confirmation that the project is permanently cancelled;

7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all future works that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Further encourages the State Party to pursue the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and the necessary corrective measures, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, and to allocate the personnel and resources required, to enable examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;

9. Encourages furthermore the State Party to continue the development of the pending boundary clarification, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, and in conformity with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Reiterates its call upon all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

11. 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;

12. **Decides to retain Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

36. Hatra (Iraq)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.36

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.16,** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Notes the State Party's efforts to implement previous Committee Decisions and corrective measures to achieve the adopted Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

4. Requests the State Party to continue implementing the corrective measures as a priority, and to seek any necessary further support, in particular for:

    a) Reinforcing site security by installing surveillance cameras,

    b) Repairing damage resulting from conflict (including completing the temporary transport of archaeological finds to be photographed and catalogued, as well as ensuring their adequate storage and protection),

    c) Assessing risks at monuments indirectly impacted by the conflict and addressing vulnerabilities, including through urgent stabilization, diagnostic studies and planning for restoration works at the Temples of Samya, the Triad, and priority interventions at the Temples of Shahiru and Allat,

    d) Preparation of the Conservation Plan for the Temenos area;

5. Reiterates its request to further implement the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular addressing the following:

   a) Elaboration of a monitoring programme, coupled with a capacity building programme for its implementation,

   b) Once the Conservation Plan for the Temenos area is prepared, carrying out of the subsequent selection of pilot interventions and their monitoring over time to assess their efficacy,

   c) Prioritization of the preparation of a Site Management Plan that includes requirements related to management, conservation, and visitor management, including additional facilities and services to address increasing tourism,

   d) Preparation of a strategy and allocation of resources for documentation management;

6. Encourages the State Party to consider other projects identified by the recently formed committee from the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage and Nineveh Antiquities and Heritage Inspectorate;

7. Also encourages the State Party to consider the elaboration of a minor boundary modification proposal for the designation of a buffer zone, for added protection of the property, in conformity with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Recalls the need for the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned and ongoing works that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments, prepared in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, for any major projects, and to do so before making any decisions that will be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Reiterates its call upon all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

10. 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;

11. **Decides to retain Hatra (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

37. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.37

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the implementation of some recommendations of the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, including the establishment of an onsite management unit, and urges the State Party to pursue the implementation of the framework it had established towards this end, particularly with regard to surveys, documentation, assessments and conservation planning;

4. Notes the ongoing monitoring of encroachments by the State Party and the information that has been submitted, and requests the State Party to provide a detailed report, containing a map, on all identified and potential encroachments;

5. Reiterating its concern for the condition of the property, particularly with regard to its damaged and deteriorated state arising from the impact of encroachment, urban sprawl and bulldozing activities, in addition to natural deterioration and weathering, also urges the State Party to give priority to previously-recommended actions related to detailed documentation and assessment of threats and damage;

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party that interventions be addressed within the framework of an overall assessment of damage and risks, and that a comprehensive Conservation Plan be prepared in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, while in the meantime, any emergency stabilization or conservation work, including works to Abu Dulaf Mosque and Qubbat al-Sulaybiyya, should adhere to the principles of minimal intervention and only be undertaken in critical cases where there is threat of further accelerated damage and collapse;

7. Expresses regret that multiple major restoration projects did not proceed according to the findings of technical reviews undertaken by ICOMOS and the recommendations of the 2023 mission, including at the Great Mosque, Caliphal Palace, Al Hir, and Bab al‘Amma, and also requests the State Party to place a moratorium on further major interventions and to engage in a technical exchange and dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding an appropriate conservation approach at the property, which is focused on retention of authenticity and support for Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

8. Further requests the State Party to reconsider the proposed school construction project, located within the buffer zone of the property, having regard to the conclusions and recommendations of the 2023 ICOMOS technical review, with an initial focus on documenting and analysing the findings;

9. Further urges the State Party to continue to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all planned and ongoing works, including for major restoration interventions, which may have an impact on the authenticity and OUV of the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* for any major projects, and to do so before making any decisions that will be difficult to reverse;

10. Encourages the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the process for establishing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with related corrective measures and timeframe for implementation, as soon as conditions allow;

11. 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;

12. **Decides to retain Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

38. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having considered Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5 and the Annex attached to this decision,
2. Recalling its previous decisions concerning the **Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls**,
3. Decides that the status of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls relating to the World Heritage List remains unchanged as reflected in Decisions **46 COM 7A.18** and **46 COM 8C.2** of its last session,

ANNEX

The World Heritage Committee

47th session of the Committee (47 COM)

Item 38: Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5,
2. Recalling the relevant provisions on the protection of cultural heritage including the four Geneva Conventions (1949), the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) and its related protocols, the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970), the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the New Delhi UNESCO Recommendation of 1956 concerning excavations undertaken in occupied territories, the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls at the request of Jordan on the World Heritage List (1981) and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (1982) and related recommendations, resolutions and decisions of UNESCO,
3. Reaffirming that nothing in the present decision, which aims at the safeguarding of the authenticity, integrity and cultural heritage of the Old City of Jerusalem on both sides of its Walls, shall in any way affect the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, in particular the relevant Security Council resolutions on the legal status of Jerusalem, including United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 (2016),
4. Also reaffirming the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions,
5. Reminding that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular the "basic law" on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith,
6. Further recalling the 28 decisions of the Executive Board: 185 EX/Decision 14, 187 EX/Decision 11, 189 EX/Decision 8, 190 EX/Decision 13, 192 EX/Decision 11, 194 EX/Decision 5.D, 195 EX/Decision 9, 196 EX/Decision 26, 197 EX/Decision 32, 199 EX/Decision 19.1, 200 EX/Decision 25, 201 EX/Decision 30, 202 EX/Decision 38,

204 EX/Decision 25, 205 EX/Decision 28, 206 EX/Decision 32, 207 EX/Decision 38, 209 EX/Decision 24, 210 EX/Decision 36, 211 EX/Decision 33, 212 EX/Decision 43, 214 EX/Decision 22, 215 EX/Decision 36, 216 EX/Decision 33, 217 EX/Decision 33, 219 EX/Decision 22, 220 EX/Decision 33, and 221 EX/Decision 33, and the 13 decisions World Heritage Committee decisions: **34 COM 7A.20**, **35 COM 7A.22**, **36 COM 7A.23**, **37 COM 7A.26**, **38 COM 7A.4**, **39 COM 7A.27**, **40 COM 7A.13**, **41 COM 7A.36**, **42 COM 7A.21, 43 COM 7A.22, 44 COM 7A.10, 45 COM 7A.31** and **46 COM 7A.18**;

7. Regrets the failure of the Israeli occupying authorities to cease the persistent reported excavations, tunnelling, works, projects, and other illegal practices in East Jerusalem, particularly in and around the Old City of Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law and reiterates its request to Israel, the occupying Power, to prohibit all reported violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;

8. Also regrets the Israeli refusal to implement the UNESCO request to the Director-General to appoint a permanent representative to be stationed in East Jerusalem to report on a regular basis about all aspects covering the fields of competence of UNESCO in East Jerusalem, and reiterates its request to the Director-General to appoint, as soon as possible, the above-mentioned representative;

9. Stresses again the urgent need to implement the UNESCO reactive monitoring mission to the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls, and invites the Director-General and the World Heritage Centre, to exert all possible efforts, in line with their mandates and in conformity with the provisions of the relevant UNESCO conventions, decisions and resolutions, to ensure the prompt implementation of the mission and, in case of non-implementation, to propose possible effective measures to ensure its implementation;

10. **Decides to retain the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

39. Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.39

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Taking note of the State Party's efforts to enhance the protection of the property, and initiate documentation, acknowledges that the challenging security situation in 2024 hindered substantial progress;

4. Takes note of the provisional inscription of the property on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection, under the mechanism established by the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Decision **4 EXT.COM 4.25**);

5. Notes that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in June 2024, and requests the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the mission report, particularly to urgently:

    a) Stabilize the umbrella of the Water Tower, the soffit of the Open-Air Theatre and the fascia of the Grand Canopy, in conjunction with capacity building on original concrete repairs,

b) Undertake archival research and on-site investigations into the rainwater run-off system, and implement emergency measures to reinstate a functioning rainwater run-off system,

c) Designate the Fair as a nationally protected heritage, defining its boundaries and future buffer zone by providing exact coordinates, and updating accordingly the Master Plans with detailed land use and architectural guidelines,

d) Integrate the Conservation Management Plan into the management system by developing and implementing an action plan,

e) Establish a functioning management structure for the property, that also includes representatives from the cultural heritage protection institutions, professionals and academic organizations, and civil society, as outlined in further detail in the mission report;

6. Also requests that a Management Plan be developed to reflect the management strategy for conservation, development, and operation, to clarify short-, medium-, and long-term conservation actions, include the documentation of interventions, and establish a cyclical inspection and maintenance plan;

7. Welcomes the initiative to rehabilitate the Experimental Theatre (Dome) as a pilot project for the property, and further requests that the project details, including its Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as well as any project proposals that may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to review, and augment as needed, the proposal for the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation, contained in the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission report, and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

9. Calls for increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party to implement the short- and medium-term measures aimed at improving the state of conservation of the property and invites the State Party to submit proposals for International Assistance from the World Heritage Fund;

10. 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;

11. **Decides to retain Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli (Lebanon) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

40. Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.40

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the continued efforts in implementing conservation and protection measures, including those in response to the impact of flooding on the property, and urges the State Party to continue these efforts in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the

Advisory Bodies, including concerning the choice of restoration materials and techniques planned at the property before their implementation;

4. Acknowledges the study and works undertaken regarding the channelling of rainwater, as well as the management of wastewater to avoid the contamination of Wadi Belghadir and the Spring of Apollo, and requests the State Party to pursue such planning in a comprehensive manner, and submit these plans with all related studies to the World Heritage Centre for technical review;

5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to pursue the development of a conservation strategy reflecting the priority areas that have been identified by the UNESCO mission of November 2023, including:

   a) Urgent assessment and stabilization studies for exposed or weakened foundations and structures,

   b) Comprehensive study tackling the stability and stabilization of the rock escarpment in the lower north-west area of the property,

   c) Geotechnical and soil studies to address issues of soil erosion,

   d) Disaster risk management with an early warning system;

6. Strongly encourages the State Party to pursue the development of a Management Plan for the property as a priority and invites it to seek the necessary technical and financial support;

7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to continue the close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the elaboration of a minor boundary modification proposal, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Also urges the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;

9. Further urges the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

10. Recalls the need to keep the Committee informed through the World Heritage Centre on the evolution of the situation, and on any ongoing or future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

11. Also requests that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property take place as soon as conditions permit;

12. Continues to call for an increased mobilization of the international community to support urgent and medium-term safeguarding measures, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

13. Reiterates its appeal to all State Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property from Libya, as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;

14. 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;

15. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

41. Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM7A.21**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the State Party and its partners in implementing conservation measures, undertaking documentation and restoration activities, and engaging with partners to address challenges at the property, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to the extent possible and to seek the necessary funds as needed;
4. Continues encouraging the State Party to initiate the development of a comprehensive Conservation Action Plan for the property, and to pursue the development of a Management Plan, while seeking the necessary technical and financial support in this regard;
5. Strongly urges the State Party to finalize the process of developing the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), with a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its concern about the alarming state of conservation of the Hunting Baths and its request to the State Party to:
    a) Pursue the development of a conservation strategy for the Hunting Baths, with urgent conservation measures aiming to preserve and protect the monument, and to seek the necessary technical and financial support in this regard,
    b) Present the proposed conservation plan for the Hunting Baths to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
    c) Continue consulting the Advisory Bodies with regard to restoration materials and techniques planned to be used at the Hunting Baths and the other archaeological remains at the property before their implementation;
7. Also reiterates its concern about the issue of tidal flooding and sea encroachment, and requests the State Party to carry out an overall risk assessment of its impact on the property with the elaboration of related mitigation measures, and to present them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to continue, in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Also requests the State Party to provide further detailed information about the highway project, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) undertaken in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, in line with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Further requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed, through the World Heritage Centre, on the evolution of the property and its setting, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on all plans and ongoing works that may impact the OUV of the property, including HIAs before making decisions that are may be difficult to reverse;

11. Takes note of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission that visited the property in February 2025, and also encourages the State Party to implement its recommendations, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;

12. Further encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to address the pressing conservation and management issues and lack of resources that the property is currently facing;

13. Continues to call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

14. 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;

15. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

42. Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.22**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Notes with appreciation the efforts of the State Party in undertaking conservation and cleaning work despite resource constraints, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and safeguard of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to the extent possible, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, and to seek the necessary funds as needed;

4. Urges the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft retrospective Statement of OUV, for examination by the World Heritage Committee;

5. Also urges the State Party to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to pursue close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the elaboration of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, and to submit it in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Continues encouraging the State Party to pursue the development of a Management Plan for the property, and invites it to seek the necessary technical and financial support and allocate the resources required for its implementation;

8. Takes note of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission that visited the property in February 2025, and requests the State Party to implement its recommendations, particularly with regard to safeguarding vulnerable remains that are at risk, and the development of a comprehensive conservation plan, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

9. Also encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to address the pressing conservation and management issues that the property is currently facing;

10. Continues to call for an increased mobilization by the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

11. Reiterates its request to the State Party to continue to keep the Committee informed on the evolution of the situation at the property and to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, on any ongoing and future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may impact the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

12. 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;

13. **Decides to retain Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

43. Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.106** and **46 COM 7A.23**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the important efforts made by the State Party in undertaking activities for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), particularly those directed towards the implementation of corrective measures for the achievement of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), as adopted by the Committee, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts, including through continued stakeholder and community engagement and adequate budgetary allocations, towards the continued conservation of the property and its OUV;

4. Welcomes the completion of the restoration work to the houses damaged by rainfall in 2017 and other continuous restoration and maintenance work to the Old Town and its oasis, as well as the stabilisation of those damaged by rains in 2019, and notes with concern that the latter have not been fully rehabilitated due to capital budget restraints;

5. Notes with appreciation the actions undertaken by the State Party in response to the infestation by green scale insects in the palm groves, and also requests the State Party

to secure funding to implement and monitor the proposed remedial actions and to provide further information about their efficacy;

6. Notes the conclusions and recommendations presented by the February 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and further requests the State Party to implement the recommendations, including to:

   a) Develop a conservation guidance manual to provide an illustrated description of the complete processes for maintenance, conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation,

   b) Establish an Action Plan to accompany the Management Plan,

   c) Formally adopt and implement the amended land use regulations integrating the modified boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, together with the proposed charter for the management of the buffer zone,

   d) Prepare a Sustainable Tourism Management Plan that ensures a holistic approach to tourism management at the property, its buffer zone and wider setting;

7. Acknowledges the support provided through the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to develop the DSOCR, and the ALIPH Foundation (International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage) regarding the rehabilitation of the Al-Alaaly Building;

8. Also commends and congratulates the State Party and its partners for substantively completing the implementation of the corrective measures defined for achieving the DSOCR;

9. Decides to remove the Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) from the List of World Heritage in Danger;

10. Requests furthermore for the State Party to regularly inform the Committee on the evolution of the situation at the property, the implementation of residual corrective measures, and any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

11. Finally requests 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.

44. Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.44

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.24** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 46th session, and continues to express its concern about the absence of relevant updated information;

4. Urges the State Party to continue its efforts for the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in close coordination with local communities and civil society;

5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about the evolution of the situation at the property and any future plans for major

restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, including the provision of detailed information on the rehabilitation of the fort at Alawenat, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Invites again the State Party to continue pursuing the elaboration of a Management Plan for the property, seeking the necessary technical and financial support for its completion, and allocating the necessary resources for its implementation;

7. Recalls the invitation by the State Party for the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and encourages it to take place as soon as conditions permit;

8. Also urges the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, a draft retrospective Statement of OUV, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;

9. Further urges the State Party to initiate the process to develop a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their implementation, as well as the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;

10. Continues to call for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;

11. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property from Libya as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of March 2017, and the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;

12. 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;

13. **Decides to retain Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 47 COM 7A.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5, and the Annex attached to this decision,

2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7A.28**, **43 COM 7A.29**, **44 COM 7A.16**, **45 COM 7A.38** and **46 COM 7A.25** adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Decides that the status of **Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town** relating to the World Heritage List remains unchanged as reflected in Decision **41 COM 8B.1** of the World Heritage Committee.

ANNEX

The World Heritage Committee
47th session of the Committee (47 COM)

1. Having considered Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5

2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 8B.1** adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), which did not include a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), and noting that in compliance with Paragraph 154 of the Operational Guidelines, when deciding to inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, guided by the Advisory Bodies, the Committee adopts a SOUV for the property,

3. Taking note of a further-revised draft SOUV, the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and the related corrective measures provided with the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party,

4. Also takes note of the Management and Conservation Plan (MCP) for the property and requests that once the SOUV for the property is adopted and the DSOCR is finalised, the MCP be amended in collaboration with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;

5. Commends the State Party for the actions which are being taken to conserve significant attributes of the property, including conservation and maintenance at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, regular maintenance of historic buildings, conservation and adaptive reuse of Al-Jubeh house, and conservation of Al-Jabari house, as well as for initiatives for socio-economic benefits and awareness-raising for the local community;

6. Deplores the ongoing Israeli activities reported inside the Old City of Al-Khalil/Hebron, including the reported completion of an electric elevator in Al-Ibrahimi Mosque/The Tomb of the Patriarchs, the construction of settlements, archaeological excavations, demolition of commercial stores in Al-Hisbeh market and destruction of the arched and domed entrances at the historic bus station, which are illegal under international law and harmfully affect the authenticity and integrity of the site, and the subsequent denial of freedom of movement and freedom of access to places of worship, and requests Israel, the occupying power, to end all violations which are not in conformity with the provisions of relevant UNESCO conventions, resolutions and decisions;

7. Expresses its deep concern about reported planned interventions at Al-Ibrahimi Mosque / The Tomb of the Patriarchs, particularly a covering of the open courtyard, that could be carried out by Israel, the Occupying Power, without the consent of the State Party. In line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, such major interventions, potentially affecting the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, and integrity of the property, should be submitted in advance to the World Heritage Committee, with the required documentation, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs). Requests to refrain from any intervention, and that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission be dispatched, as soon as conditions allow, to assess the state of conservation and provide technical advice on the proposed works and necessary conservation measures, ensuring full preservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

8. Encourages the State Patry to submit a request for International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund to support the implementation of conservation measures at the property;

9. Recalls the need to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on current conservation and development projects which have potential adverse impact on heritage, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Further requests that all parties refrain from any action that would cause damage to the heritage values of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value, and to take all possible measures, in line with international law, to protect the property, in particular to refrain from physical damage, prevention of conservation projects, and inappropriate new development projects within the property and its buffer zone;

11. 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;

12. **Also decides to retain Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (State of Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

46. Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (State of Palestine)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.46

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.26**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Commending the State Party for its efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property and to implement the corrective measures to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), continues encouraging the State Party to pursue its efforts in seeking the required funds to undertake the development of a suitable sewage system, as a matter of priority;

4. Taking note of the challenges faced in endorsing the land-use plan and related bylaws to avoid uncontrolled urban growth within the property and its buffer zone, also encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts towards this end;

5. Further encourages the continued implementation of the project to "Support sustainable tourism through safeguarding, rehabilitation and promotion of the agro-cultural landscape of Battir", which aims to promote agro-cultural tourism as a driver for economic and social development, while safeguarding and promoting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

6. Takes note of the State Party’s commitment to transmit to the World Heritage Centre documentation for the interpretation centre and bus parking project once available and to continue to inform the World Heritage Centre of any proposed plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Expresses its deep concern of reports of ongoing illegal constructions, settlements and other developments, as well as damages to agricultural areas, within the property and its buffer zone, and asks all parties to avoid any action that would cause damage to the property;

8. 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;

9. **Decides to retain Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (State of Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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

Decision: 47 COM 7A.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 8B.44**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Expresses deep concern about the potential threats facing the property;
4. Recommends that the State Party invites a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as soon as the situation on the ground allows, to further assess the state of conservation and establish a Desired State of Conservation, and a program of corrective measures, for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
5. Encourages the Secretariat to continue its active monitoring efforts and to develop new partnerships for the preventive conservation and emergency protection of the property, including the prevention of illicit trafficking within the property;
6. Calls on all State Parties to provide urgent financial support for the implementation of UNESCO's Action Plan for Gaza, including the protection and conservation of property through voluntary contributions;
7. Calls upon Israeli authorities to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the site, including preventing any harm, degradation, or alterations;
8. Requests to refrain from any actions that could harm or adversely affect the integrity and authenticity of the Saint Hilarion Monastery / Tell Umm Amer;
9. Recalls its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2025**, or as soon as the situation allows, a report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;
10. **Decides to retain Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer (State of Palestine) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

48. Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Taking note of the efforts made to stabilize and restore major monuments affected by the 2023 earthquake and to revive economic life in the city, reiterates its encouragement to all stakeholders to continue their efforts towards the recovery of the property;

4. Welcomes the initiation of the Recovery Master Plan, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, and requests the State Party to undertake further elaboration to embody the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and to incorporate the yet-to-be-prepared Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures, and also requests that a draft version of the Plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its approval and implementation;

5. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in decisions of the Committee, and in that regard, reiterates its request to the State Party to submit information regarding the proposed adaptation of al-Rushdi al-Askari school of military education to become a four-star hotel, to the World Heritage Centre, and more generally, to submit information on major projects, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, including Heritage Impact Assessments prepared in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are made;

6. Calls again on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures at the property, contributing to economic recovery and promoting livelihood opportunities for local communities;

7. Also reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to initiate, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the elaboration of the DSOCR, with a set of corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation;

8. Also taking note of the invitation by the State Party, further requests that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place as soon as feasible, in order to carry out an overall assessment of the state of conservation of the property, support the development of the DSOCR and associated corrective measures, and provide advice on the evolving content of the Recovery Master Plan;

9. Noting the previously reported regulation for the creation of a buffer zone, further reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to submit a proposal for a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2026**, in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by ICOMOS;

10. 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;

11. **Decides to retain Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

49. Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.49

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.28**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Takes note of the restoration work undertaken to reinforce structural stability at the Citadel/Theatre and repair the damage incurred during the conflict at the dome's drum

and façade at Madrasa Abû al-Fida, and requests the State Party to only undertake emergency measures until a Recovery Master Plan has been agreed upon;

4. Also requests the State Party to develop a Recovery Master Plan aiming at addressing the conservation, management and development of the property through a holistic and sustainable approach, and encourages the State Party to seek partnerships and funding support, as well as further guidance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies towards this aim;

5. Further requests the State Party to revise the Heritage Impact Assessment for the Kalybe monument, ensuring that it addresses the broader context of the monument, and is aligned with the foreseen development of a Recovery Master Plan;

6. Reiterates its call on all States Parties to support emergency safeguarding and recovery measures at the property;

7. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties and actors to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, and 2347 of March 2017;

8. Also encourages the State Party to pursue the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), and a set of correctives measures, for potential examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session;

9. Also takes note of the invitation by the State Party of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and requests furthermore that this mission take place as soon as feasible, in order to assess the state of conservation of the property;

10. 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;

11. **Decides to retain Ancient City of Bosra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

50. Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.29**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the State Party's reporting on progress with implementation of each corrective measure individually, but notes that full documentation should be provided to enable assessment of the progress made with implementation of corrective measures toward achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

4. Also notes that the implementation of the corrective measures related to micro-finance loans and craftsmanship support was impacted by the prolonged years of conflict and related economic sanctions;

5. Acknowledging with appreciation the implementation of activities focusing on assessment, digital modelling, and data collection, to clarify the needs related to the management and development of the property, inform the elaboration of Disaster Management Plan and guide the update of the 2008 Master Plan into a comprehensive Recovery Master Plan (RMP), encourages the State Party to sustain its efforts, and reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:

   a) Ensure that the RMP is developed in line with UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape,

   b) Submit a draft version of the Disaster Management Plan and the RMP to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before finalization, to ensure that the city's development contributes to the well-being of communities and to the conservation of cultural heritage;

6. Regrets that works have proceeded with the conversion of Khan Suleiman Pasha to become a five-star hotel, without the submission of a comprehensive set of project documentation, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;

7. Reminds the State Party of the obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in previous Decisions of the Committee, including Decisions **45 COM 7A.42** and **46 COM 7A.29**, and to submit information on any proposed project that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including HIAs, following the methodology of the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, and before the commencement of work, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Further reiterates its calls upon the international community to support the urgent conservation of the property;

9. Taking note with appreciation of the invitation by the State Party, requests that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place as soon as feasible, in order to carry out an overall assessment of the state of conservation of the property and the progress made towards the achievement of the DSOCR;

10. 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;

11. **Decides to retain Ancient City of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

51. Ancient villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.51

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Takes note of the information provided on the state of conservation of the property, including reported extensive damage during the period of conflict, and expresses its

concern about the current situation of several components of the property, where previously reported damage appears to have worsened;

4. Requests the State Party to carry out a detailed and systematic condition assessment of the property in order to identify emergency measures and priority actions to be undertaken to prevent further damage and loss, and encourages the State Party to carry out awareness raising activities for communities, living in or in the vicinity of the property, about the need to preserve and protect it;

5. Calls upon the international community to support efforts aimed at the conservation of the property, and reiterates its appeal to all State Parties to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347 of 2017;

6. Taking note of the invitation by the State Party that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and identify measures needed to ensure its conservation and protection, requests that detailed condition assessments be initiated as far as possible before scheduling such a Reactive Monitoring mission, and following an initial mission to other Syrian World Heritage properties;

7. Also encourages the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to initiate the elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) with a set of corrective measures and timeframe for their implementation;

8. 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;

9. **Decides to retain Ancient Villages of Northern Syria (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

52. Crac des chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.52

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.31**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the collaborative efforts undertaken with partners at Crac des Chevaliers, which have addressed damage incurred as result of the 2023 earthquake;

4. Requests the State Party to provide clear documentation on the work undertaken for the restoration of Qal'at Salah El-Din, similar to the information submitted in November 2024 for Crac des Chevaliers, and reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit documentation of proposed projects, including major conservation works, to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to works commencing or other irreversible decisions, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Encourages the State Party to further progress towards achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), in relation to protection and management, and notably by addressing and systematically reporting on the following corrective measures:

a) Damaged structures at Crac des Chevaliers are restored; those not yet restored should be at least planned appropriately,

b) All emergency structural interventions are implemented at Qal'at Salah El-Din,

c) Cooperation with the local community is strengthened for an enhanced protection at both component sites,

d) Challenges in the buffer zone are addressed, notably a damage assessment is carried out and emergency measures are defined in the buffer zone of Crac des Chevaliers and the boundaries of the buffer zone of Qal'at Salah El-Din are redefined, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Committee in its Decision **45 COM 8B.67**,

e) A study and consultations are carried out to set criteria and priorities for the removal of illegal constructions within the buffer zone of Crac des Chevaliers;

6. Also reminds the State Party of its obligation to respond to and report on the requests made in decisions of the Committee;

7. Taking note of the invitation by the State Party, requests that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place as soon as feasible, in order to carry out an overall assessment of the state of conservation of the property and the progress made towards the achievement of the DSOCR;

8. 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;

9. **Decides to retain Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

53. Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Taking note of the outlined methodology of works planned at the Theatre proscenium wall, reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the outcomes of the first phase of work on documentation and investigation, for review, and requests the State Party to submit the detailed restoration plan, including drawings and specifications, to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse;

4. Regretting that the restoration of the Triumphal Arch has been halted, also requests the State Party to:

a) Implement measures to ensure that all elements of the arch, whether collapsed, standing or stored, are well protected,

b) Reactivate or seek for alternative partnerships and funding to resume implementation, maintaining the same rigorous technical standards, including by drawing on the expertise of the international scientific Task Force;

5. Also taking note of the information regarding the recovery master plan for the property and the development of a post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction Action Plan, further requests the State Party to submit both plans to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, noting that a recovery master plan for the property should incorporate actions to support the implementation of corrective measures adopted by Decision **46 COM 7A.32** that would contribute to achieving the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR);

6. Reiterates its call upon the international community to support the implementation of the above-mentioned corrective measures;

7. Reiterates its appeal to all States Parties and actors to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage coming from Syria as per the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 of February 2015, and 2347 of March 2017;

8. Further taking note of the invitation by the State Party that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission takes place in order to assess the state of conservation of the property and the progress made towards the achievement of the DSOCR, further requests that this mission is organized as soon as possible;

9. 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;

10. **Decides to retain Site of Palmyra (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

54. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.33**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Expresses its continuing concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable owing to the fragile state of many historic structures, heavy rainfall events, and economic conditions;

4. Acknowledges the efforts undertaken in damage assessment, housing rehabilitation, documentation and emergency interventions at the property, and reiterates its previous requests that they continue in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, in line with the Operational Guidelines;

5. Recalls the obligation to submit information on major projects (including conservation programmes) to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any irreversible decisions being taken, and requests the submission of relevant details about projects undertaken or envisaged at the Old Souk, the northern section of the city's citadel, parts of the Alexandria Minaret and Zabid Castle;

6. Reiterates its previous request that proposals for a boundary clarification and a Minor Boundary Modification are elaborated in close coordination with UNESCO and the

Advisory Bodies, to be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;

8. Further reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to contribute to the processes required to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the situation allows;

9. 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;

10. **Decides to retain Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

55. Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.55

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **18 EXT.COM 5.3** and **46 COM 7A.34,** adopted at its 18th extraordinary (UNESCO, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Expressing concern about the lack of detailed and comprehensive information about the state of conservation of the property, encourages the State Party to submit, when conditions allow, detailed documentation on all damage incurred at the property, comprising systematic photographic surveys, drawings, graphics, quantitative data and identification of potential risks;

4. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to implement the recommendations outlined at the time of inscription, as follows:

   a) Halting the implementation of the 2018 Master Plan until a full assessment has been undertaken, through a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), of its potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its setting, and, based on the results of the HIA, undertaking necessary revisions of the Plan,

   b) Reinstating funding for management and conservation,

   c) Developing as a matter of urgency risk preparedness plans for each component part of the property, to address vandalism and looting as well as overall protection,

   d) Including local tribes as traditional custodians of the component parts in the management and protection of the property to ensure buy-in from local communities and prevent potential conflicts,

e) Extending protection measures onto the post-Sabaean vernacular architecture in the ancient cities of Ma'rib and Sirwah, as part of the safeguarding of the historic and traditional context of the property, and involving local populations in the protection and management of these heritage resources,

f) Completing an inventory of Sabaean monuments and sites,

g) Enhancing the coordination of inputs from varied research institutions and international agencies to ensure that there is no duplication of work or resources and to maximise and sustain the initiatives aimed at capacity-strengthening, knowledge production, protection, and management of the property,

h) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects (including fencing) which may affect the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Recommends that the State Party undertake protection and urgent stabilisation work only in cases where collapse or further damage is imminent, according to the principle of minimal intervention, and that future interventions shall be addressed within the framework of an overall assessment of damage and risks and a comprehensive Conservation Plan prepared in full consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

6. Reminds the State Party that any elements found at the property and resulting from conflict-related damage such as intentional destruction, should be retrieved and gathered in a safe location, and that the boundaries of the property should be protected from illegal excavations and looting;

7. Requests that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission take place once conditions allow, in order to report on the overall state of conservation of the property, assess the protection of the property and its buffer zone and consider the effectiveness of the property's boundaries, and advise on the development of the Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) and related corrective measures;

8. Calls for an increased mobilisation of the international community to support capacity building initiatives and technical assistance for emergency safeguarding measures;

9. Appeals to all States Parties and actors to cooperate in the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Yemen and to contribute towards the safeguarding of its cultural heritage;

10. 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;

11. **Decides to retain Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

56. Old City of Sana'a (Yemen)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.35**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Reiterates its concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable because of the deteriorating condition of historic buildings, effects of extreme weather conditions, damage from conflict, security challenges, and continuing limited resources for conservation and management;

4. Acknowledges the efforts undertaken in capacity building, awareness raising, damage assessment, documentation and repair and securing of historic buildings at the property, and reiterates its previous requests that such initiatives continue in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, in line with the Operational Guidelines;

5. Regrets that the Al-Nahrain Mosque project was completed without implementing the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review and recalls the obligation not only to refer projects to the World Heritage Centre in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines but also not to take any irreversible actions until the technical advice of the Advisory Bodies has been received;

6. Requests the full implementation of the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review of the rehabilitation project for Souk Al-Halaqa and adjacent souks, including preparation of a Heritage Impact Assessment following the methodology of the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*;

7. Noting that modification to the boundary of the property will not be considered at this time, also reiterates its previous request that proposals for a boundary clarification and a Minor Boundary Modification should be elaborated in close coordination with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, and be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as the situation allows;

8. Also requests that high priority be afforded to the proposed review of the protection system for the property, and to submit the findings of this review to the World Heritage Centre;

9. Continues to urge all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;

10. Further reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to contribute to the processes required to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the preparation of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, and implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the situation allows;

11. 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;

12. **Decides to retain Old City of Sana'a (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

57. Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen)

Decision: 47 COM 7A.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7A.36** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Reiterates its concern that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property continues to be vulnerable owing to the current conflict, climate change, development pressures, and lack of awareness of the World Heritage status of the property;
4. Commends the efforts undertaken in capacity building, awareness raising, damage assessment, documentation and repair of historic buildings at the property, including further progress through the second phase of the European Union-funded 'Youth Employment through Culture and Heritage in Yemen' project, and requests that these initiatives continue in consultation with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Welcomes the proposed updating of the conservation plan for the property and requests the State Party to include provisions to support and extend protection, conservation, capacity building and awareness activities to all stakeholders, and to engage with the local community and landowners to ensure adequate protection and prevent encroachment, and to submit the draft conservation plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is adopted and implemented;
6. Also reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:
    a) Submit the report 'Conservation Status of Shibam Hadramout 2018-2019, Strategy for the Management of the Historic City of Shibam', as well as full details regarding the works undertaken at the Governmental Complex buildings, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and
    b) Continue to further support and extend protection, conservation, capacity building and awareness activities to all stakeholders, and to engage with the local community and landowners to ensure adequate protection and prevent encroachment;
7. Continues urging all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any further action that would cause damage to the cultural heritage of Yemen and the OUV of the property, and to fulfil their obligations under international law, in particular the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and appeals to all States Parties to cooperate in the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict as per United Nations Security Council Resolution 2347;
8. Also reiterates its previous calls to the international community to provide technical and financial support, for the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan for the Safeguarding of Yemen's Cultural Heritage, including funding for capacity building and first-aid restoration and protection measures;
9. Also requests the State Party to initiate remote elaboration of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), a set of corrective measures and a timeframe for their completion through collaboration between the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the representatives of the State Party, with the aim of presenting the DSOCR and related corrective measures to a future session of the Committee;

10. Further reiterates its previous request that proposals for a boundary clarification and a Minor Boundary Modification should be elaborated in close coordination with UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies, ideally through the DSOCR process, and be submitted in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as the situation allows;

11. Further reiterates the need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to contribute to the processes required to enable the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, including the preparation of the DSOCR, and implementation of corrective measures, as soon as the situation allows;

12. 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;

13. **Decides to retain Old Walled City of Shibam (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

7B. STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

NATURAL PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

1. Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Australia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.79**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Appreciates the continued collaboration between the Australian, New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland governments and various other stakeholders, including First Nations peoples for the conservation and management of the property;
4. Welcomes the ongoing implementation of long-term recovery measures to address the ecological impacts of the 2019-2020 bushfires, which affected approximately 53% of the property, on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including adaptive management, renewed prevention preparedness and resilience building for future natural disasters, as well as the prioritisation of threatened species recovery and the report of positive improvements for some threatened species, and the prioritisation of climate action, and requests the State Party to continue the effective implementation of these measures to ensure continued recovery of the property;
5. Noting that the recovery of the property from the impacts of the bushfires will take many years, also requests the State Party to provide an update on progress achieved regarding:
    a) The ongoing monitoring and assessment of ecological impacts of the 2019-20 bushfires, including the impacts of Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*), on the OUV of the property, and the implementation of long-term recovery measures,
    b) Implementation of the remaining recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and NSW Bushfire Inquiry, as well as climate change adaptation plans for the property;
6. Also appreciates the State Party's continued sharing of best practices and capacity building in emergency management and climate action, including through the Climate Action for World Heritage through Capacity Building project, and encourages the State Party to continue supporting other States Parties to the Convention in this regard;
7. Takes note that there is currently no proposal for the granting of a license to extract water from the vicinity of Springbrook National Park and further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any projects that may impact the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Finally requests 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.

2. Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.13** and **46 COM 7B.62**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions, respectively,
3. Notes with utmost concern the conclusions of the 2024 Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report that the overall long-term outlook of the property remains one of continued deterioration due largely to climate change, and the long-term outlook for the ecosystem of the property also remains 'very poor', and the negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) suffered through mass bleaching events, including the most recent event in 2023/2024;
4. Regrets that 2025 water quality targets for sediment and dissolved inorganic nitrogen were not achieved and requests the State Party to complete the updated Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) by 2025, and to ensure that water quality targets, and actions implemented through the updated WQIP are sufficiently ambitious and funded to ensure the OUV of the property is not further adversely impacted by low water quality, in particular to:
    a) Continue early detection and intervention to halt illegal land clearing,
    b) Strengthen clauses under existing laws to ensure that all remnant and high value growth areas are protected, including category X vegetation (under the Queensland Vegetation Management Act), and other high priority areas including riparian zones, lands vulnerable to degradation and areas contributing to sediment and nitrogen pollution,
    c) Ensure full compliance with Queensland's Reef Protection Regulations,
    d) Ensure that all Best Management Practice programmes effectively deliver water quality improvements;
5. Welcomes the ongoing efforts to increase the sustainability of fishing in and adjacent to the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that:
    a) The property is fully gillnet-free by mid-2027 at the latest,
    b) Monitoring of trawl fisheries includes comprehensive transparency and accountability mechanisms, based on adequate data,
    c) All aspects of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy are fully implemented, in particular species harvest strategies;
6. Encourages the State Party to support the Traditional Owner Taskforce, as appropriate, in its mandate to lead the delivery of the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Implementation Plan;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure the Reef 2050 Plan is effectively implemented to limit the impacts of climate change on the property, and to set further ambitious targets to limit temperature increases consistent with limiting global

temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and align its policies accordingly, and also encourages the State Party to establish effective mechanisms to mitigate negative impacts of extreme weather events to the OUV of the property;

8. 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, and including the full impacts of the 2023/2024 bleaching event, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

3. Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.180** and **45 COM 7B.80,** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,
3. Appreciates the continued collaboration between the Australian and New South Wales (NSW) governments and various other stakeholders, including First Nations peoples for the conservation and management of the property;
4. Welcomes the ongoing implementation of long-term recovery measures to address the ecological impacts of the 2019-2020 bushfires, which affected 71% of the property, on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including adaptive management, renewed prevention preparedness and resilience building for future natural disasters, as well as the prioritisation of threatened species recovery and the report of positive improvements for some threatened species, as well as prioritisation of climate action, and requests the State Party to continue the effective implementation of these measures to ensure continued recovery of the property;
5. Noting that the recovery of the property from the impacts of the bushfires will take many years, also requests the State Party to provide an update on progress achieved regarding:
    a) the ongoing monitoring and assessment of ecological impacts of the 2019-2020 bushfires and the implementation of various long-term recovery measures,
    b) implementation of the remaining recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, NSW Bushfire Inquiry and Independent Flood Inquiry;
6. Also appreciates the continued confirmation that there are no further plans to raise the Warragamba Dam wall, and confirmation that the various activities planned within the existing dam footprint to allow environmental flows will be adequately assessed, and that the State Party will inform the World Heritage Centre of any potential impacts on the OUV of the property;
7. Notes with appreciation that the completed assessment of potential cumulative mining impacts on the property informed the development of internal guidelines to assess proposed mining developments around the property for potential impacts on the OUV in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
8. Also welcomes the confirmation that the update of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan will consider all potential threats to the property including activities outside its boundaries, including mining activities;

9. Further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any significant developments that may impact the OUV of the property in the future, including those related to mining and renewable energy, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that the potential impacts of any activities related to the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport, including the finalisation of the flight path design, on the OUV of the property are fully assessed in line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and that any negative impacts are avoided;

11. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling 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. Notes the preliminary results showing positive ecological recovery in post-mining sites within the property and its buffer zones, and requests 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, urges again 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 Post-evaluation Report (PPR) to ensure the full recovery of any affected areas and species;

6. Also regrets 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. Considers 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 takes note that the IUCN Advisory mission encouraged since Decision **44 COM 7B.182** will provide an opportunity to discuss this matter;

8. Also recalling the national reform of protected areas reported by the State Party, requests furthermore 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. Further notes 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 requests moreover 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. Also takes note 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. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

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. Welcomes 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. Takes note that it is clearly reflected in all management documents that the Siberian crane has not been observed in the property since 2001-2002;

6. Requests 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. Notes that monitoring for the property is reported to be in line with legislative requirements, the approved Management Plan, and incorporating scientific principles, also requests 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. Notes with appreciation that the proposed establishment of an ex-situ management programme for four species of mammal is no longer planned;

9. Takes note that the Zonal Master Plan for the Eco-Sensitive Zone around the property has been completed, and again encourages 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. Finally requests 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.

6. Komodo National Park (Indonesia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.15**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Notes with appreciation that various tourism-related measures are being planned and implemented including a co-financing commitment for the 2024-2029 GEF/UNDP IN-FLORES project on the Komodo dragon, and requests the State Party to report on progress and implementation in relation to managing tourism pressures on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

4. Takes note that the Integrated Tourism Master Plan for Komodo National Park and Labuan Bajo Flores (ITMP) has been finalised as the policy framework to ensure that tourism development in Komodo National Park (KNP), Labuan Bajo and surrounding areas is carried out sustainably, and that a Presidential Regulation concerning the Labuan Bajo National Tourism Destination Master Plan 2024-2044 is being finalised by adopting the ITMP;

5. Welcomes the completion of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property including on tourism development projects in Labuan Bajo and surrounding areas, including existing tourism concessions within KNP, to inform planning and decision making for the property, as well as the State Party's assurances that tourism development will be conducted sustainably and that any potential environmental or social impacts on the OUV will be mitigated;

6. Notes with concern however that the SEA highlights various potential impacts of the ITMP on the OUV of the property, specifically regarding proposed tourism services and infrastructure within the property, including the five already issued business licences within KNP, and also requests the State Party to implement the findings of the SEA to inform decision making that ensures a sustainable tourism approach for the property and its wider setting, which protects the OUV, and that no proposed developments are approved that would negatively impact the OUV;

7. Also recalling its concern regarding the 2020 Ministerial decree exempting tourism infrastructure within KNP from Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirements, and the State Party's subsequent confirmation that EIAs for individual projects will be undertaken, reiterates its request for the State Party to:

   a) Ensure that all proposed development projects, including related to the five already issued business licences, are appropriately assessed for their potential impact on the OUV in line with the Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, including undertaking consultations with relevant rightsholders and stakeholders prior to the approval and construction of any project,

   b) Ensure that no concessions or development projects are approved without an appropriate assessment and that no approval is issued for projects that would have a negative impact on the OUV;

8. Also notes the assurances that current and future zoning adjustments will not adversely affect the OUV of the property, and also reiterates its request for the State Party to review whether the current zoning and resulting tourism development is adequate to ensure the protection status and the OUV of the property and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

9. Also notes with appreciation that the Komodo dragon population remains stable, and reiterates its request for the State Party to continue regular population monitoring and implement management measures that ensure the long-term protection of the species, especially in the context of tourism expansion;

10. Further notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to strengthening marine management and ensuring resource allocation, and urges the State Party to continue strengthening such measures, including to address liveaboard and cruise ship regulation, and revenue generation for management;

11. Also welcomes the implementation of an official stakeholder engagement forum including local communities, and strengthening of inclusive and participatory decision-making for the conservation of the property;

12. Further notes the Retrospective Inventory process clarification that the boundaries of the property should encompass the offshore island groups and not the buffer zone or the reserves on Flores Island in line with the IUCN Evaluation at the time of inscription, and further requests the State Party to provide a map of the property, as inscribed, following the current cartographic standards, including only the offshore island groups and surrounding marine areas;

13. Finally requests 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.

7. Shiretoko (Japan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.30**, **43 COM 7B.10, 44 COM 7B.186** and **45 COM 7B.84**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the finalisation of an Adaptive Management Strategy for Climate Change to address climate change-driven impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that sufficient allocation of resources is provided for its implementation, including long-term monitoring of climate change impacts, and the ongoing protection of the OUV of the property;

4. Also welcomes that the Basic Management Policy for managing Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) has been revised based on new population dynamics models of the two breeding populations in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Kuril Islands, and that catch levels have been set at limits that are considered to conserve the sea lion population, and also requests the State Party to continue implementing a sustainable fisheries management approach that is precautionary, adaptive and continues to be informed by scientific population data in order to ensure the long-term conservation of the species as an attribute of the OUV, in consultation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission as required;

5. Takes note that the cause for the reported decrease by half of some seabird populations since the inscription of the property will be identified through ongoing monitoring efforts, and further requests the State Party to report on its findings and address such causes, as necessary, to maintain species that are important attributes of the OUV;

6. Notes with appreciation that the revision of the Long-Term Monitoring Plan (LTMP) for the property has been completed, and that the revised 2022-2032 LTMP includes reference to various biodiversity values under criterion (x), including attributes of the OUV such as salmonid species, seabirds and marine mammals, and requests furthermore the State Party to implement the LTMP as part of a long-term approach to monitor the state of conservation and inform management decisions that ensure the protection of the OUV;

7. Also takes note of the State Party's ongoing response to the 2019 IUCN Advisory mission recommendations including through the monitoring and improvement of the river ecosystem, and encourages the State Party to continue to implement these actions;

8. Further notes the cancellation of the reported construction of a mobile phone infrastructure on Shiretoko peninsula, and reminds the State Party to ensure any future development proposals within the property or in its vicinity are subject to an Environment and Social Impact Assessment in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to assess any potential impacts on the OUV, before any decision is made to proceed;

9. Finally requests 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 Centre and IUCN.

8. Western Tien-Shan (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.95** and **45 COM 7B.85** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Takes note of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and its recommendations;

4. Notes with appreciation significant efforts and progress made by the three States Parties to strengthen transnational management of the property through the Regional Committee, including the adoption of the Regional Management Plan for the property for 2024-2028, and encourages the States Parties to continue such efforts, to reinforce joint governance mechanisms, including sustainable financing to enhance coordination as recommended by the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission;

5. Appreciates the States Parties' joint effort to prepare a boundary clarification, and requests them to revise the proposal, in line with the technical requirements outlined in the mission report, before submission to the World Heritage Centre;

6. Also requests the States Parties to finalize, as a matter of priority, the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, based on the best available data and knowledge as recommended by the mission;

7. Welcomes a joint study undertaken by the States Parties on species currently identified as the attributes of the property's OUV and that population trends since the time of inscription are reported as stable or increasing for most species, recalls the importance of systematic data collection incorporating standardized methodologies across the property, also encourages the States Parties, in line with the mission recommendations, to:

   a) Develop and implement integrated monitoring and reporting for the entire serial transnational property,

   b) Undertake additional research to identify and map critical habitats of key species supporting the property's OUV;

8. Also welcomes the proposed inclusion of the critical habitat for the Menzbier's Marmot in the Sairam-Ugam State National Nature Park by the State Party of Kazakhstan, and

the establishment of ‘Chatkal Ecological Corridor’ connecting two component parts of the property by the State Party of Kyrgyzstan, further encourages the States Parties to consider, in preparing a joint Significant Boundary Modification proposal, a potential extension to include additional areas in the property or its buffer zone to fully correspond to criterion (x) and enhance connectivity, in particular, integration of the aforementioned habitat for Menzbier’s Marmot, a key attribute of the property’s OUV, in the World Heritage property;

9. Also notes with appreciation confirmation by the State Party of Uzbekistan that no change has been made to the boundary and protection regime of the Bashkizilsay Area component part following the transfer of its management to the Uzbekistan National Railway JSC;

10. Also takes note of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission’s concerns and recommendations on the planned and ongoing development projects in the States Parties to ensure that potential impacts of any development projects and activities planned within or in the wider setting of the property which may impact on its OUV, including Kaskasu Ski Resort Project, are subject to an impact assessment in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

11. Further acknowledges the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission’s report and recommendations and submission by the State Party of Kazakhstan of the proposal and the associated Heritage Impact Assessment for the Ugam Hydro project delivered to the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in September 2024 and further requests that the State Party ensures that, if further considered for implementation, the project would follow recommendation 9 of the report including that the intended design minimizes environmental impacts, including through prioritizing water collection for domestic consumption rather than hydro-powered generation, as a lower impact alternative; any decision on implementing the project should not compromise the OUV of the property;

12. Encourages furthermore the States Parties to develop a consolidated list and map of ongoing and planned hydroelectric power projects on the watersheds of the property, for submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, to assess the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment;

13. Also recalling the Committee’s position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status, further takes note of the actions already taken by the State Party of Kyrgyzstan to halt two geological exploration licenses that had been granted for the area within the ‘Besh-Aral State Nature Reserve – main part’ component part, requests the State Party to pursue the permanent cancellation of the licenses and to undertake rehabilitation of any degraded areas in line with the mission recommendations;

14. Further welcomes the capacity building workshop organized in April 2025 with support of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust, and encourages moreover that such initiatives continue to strengthen transnational conservation, management, monitoring and governance, and to help address the mission recommendations;

15. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

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. Welcomes 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 requests the States Parties to continue their collaboration in this regard;
4. Strongly encourages 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. Notes with appreciation 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. Regrets 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. Urges, 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. Also welcomes various capacity-building activities being undertaken by the States Parties to strengthen transnational conservation and management, and encourages the States Parties to continue such initiatives including through exchange with other transboundary/transnational properties;
9. Finally requests 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.

10. Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati)

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 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 refrain from any unsustainable fishing practices that could negatively impact on the OUV of the property;

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

8. 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. 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;

10. 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;

11. 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;

12. 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.

11. Landscapes of Dauria (Mongolia, Russian Federation)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.18**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes with appreciation that the state of conservation report was submitted jointly by the States Parties of Mongolia and the Russian Federation, and requests the States Parties to continue submitting joint reports for the transboundary property in the future;
4. Takes note of the confirmation that the Onon-Ulz Dam project remains suspended pending the completion of a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and notes with significant concern that further scientific research by the Russian Federation reports that the project could have potentially wide-ranging, severe and irreversible impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the broader Daurian ecoregion;
5. Urges therefore the State Party of Mongolia to continue maintaining the suspension of all activities associated with the Onon-Ulz Dam project, and to:
    a) Ensure that an EIA is undertaken in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and in consultation with the States Parties of the Russian Federation and China, to assess the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, taking into account future climate scenarios and the potential for the project to compound the negative impacts of climate change, as well as the potential impacts on the World Heritage property ‘Lake Baikal’, and submit this EIA to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse,
    b) Not proceed with the project should the EIA conclude that it will negatively impact on the OUV of either of the two properties;
6. Notes with significant concern that a 10-year mining licence has been granted for the exploration and production of minerals at a site on the Imalka River in the Russian Federation, immediately upstream of the Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area and Daursky State Nature Reserve component parts of the property, requests the State Party of the Russian Federation to submit to the World Heritage Centre further details of the gold prospecting activities that have since ceased, and to ensure that any gold mining operations on the Imalka River are subject to an assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property, including the hydrological integrity of the Torey Lakes complex and important habitats for key species supporting the OUV of the property, and urges the State Party of the Russian Federation not to permit any further mining operations until the EIA has been considered by the Committee;
7. Commends the States Parties of Mongolia, the Russian Federation and China for their ongoing cooperation in scientific research, ecosystem monitoring, biodiversity protection and education activities within the framework of the Chinese-Mongolian-Russian Dauria International Protected Area (DIPA), and requests that this cooperation continue to ensure the ecological integrity of the transboundary property;
8. Notes with appreciation the ongoing efforts to extend the existing component parts of the World Heritage property, including the Daursky State Nature Reserve in the Russian Federation, invites the States Parties to submit a boundary modification request in accordance with the Operational Guidelines as well as to consider the inclusion of new adjacent areas of importance in China, as recommended at the time of inscription, and

encourages continued trilateral dialogue and consultation with the World Heritage Centre in this regard;

9. Notes the continued efforts to engage the public in the development of the conservation management plans for the Ugtam Nature Refuge and the Mongol Daguur Strictly Protected Area component parts of the property in Mongolia, and reiterates its request to the State Party of Mongolia to expedite their finalisation and to strengthen the resources and capacity available for the effective implementation of the updated management plans, once adopted;

10. Finally requests 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 Committee at its 49th session.

12. Chitwan National Park (Nepal)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling 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. Also recalling 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. Takes note of the State Party's confirmation of its legal requirement to follow a human-rights 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. Continues to note with appreciation the ongoing collaborative efforts to combat rhino poaching in the property, and also requests the State Party to continue anti-poaching measures;

7. Also takes note 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 requests 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. Welcomes again 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 also notes 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. Further notes that the 2022 Wildlife Friendly Infrastructure Directive is intended to guide infrastructure development and ensure this is “wildlife friendly”, and also requests the State Party to provide further clarification on what this means in practice, and further reiterates its request 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. Reiterates its request furthermore 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. Acknowledges 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 urges again the State Party to submit a boundary modification request in accordance with paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, and encourages again the State Party to seek further guidance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN regarding the boundary modification process;

14. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.96** and **45 COM 7B.87**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note that the revision of the 2016-2020 Management Plan for the property is being finalised, however regrets that this process has not yet been completed and requests the State Party to finalize, as soon as possible, the revised Management Plan, including chapters on tourism, mitigation plan for the Kongde View Resort and interventions to reduce firewood collection and promote alternative energy, for submission to the World Heritage Centre;
4. Also recalling concerns regarding increasing numbers of visitors to the property, takes note that measures such as visitor regulation and waste management continue to be implemented; and reiterates its request to the State Party to support a strategic sustainable tourism management approach by:
    a) Providing an update of the planned development of a Tourism Management Plan,
    b) Undertaking a visitor carrying capacity study to establish an appropriate carrying capacity for the property, especially during the peak season, and use the findings to inform the Tourism Management Plan,
    c) Ensuring that the Tourism Management Plan aligns with the revised Management Plan for the property;
5. Acknowledges that helicopters are important for rescue and emergency works in the property, however notes with concern that the World Heritage Centre has received third-party information regarding unrestricted helicopter operations, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide information on monitoring and regulation of tourism-related helicopter traffic within the property and the nationally designated buffer zones of the National Park;
6. Takes note that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the optical fibre project was revised based on the IUCN recommendations prior to its approval in 2023 and subsequent implementation;
7. Notes with appreciation the State Party's continued consultation with local government and communities in view of formalizing the nationally designated buffer zone as a buffer zone of the property, and reiterates its encouragement to organize an online meeting between the State Party, the management authority, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to provide further guidance;
8. Also notes with appreciation ongoing efforts by the park authority to address firewood collection and poaching, including patrolling and surveillance activities in cooperation with relevant agencies and local stakeholders, also requests the State Party to continue such measures;
9. Welcomes the State Party's continued commitment to monitor and raise awareness of climate change impacts on the local community and biodiversity, further recalling a glacial lake outburst flood which affected a village within the property in August 2024, further reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a climate adaptation strategy, and integrate this into the revised Management Plan;

10. Also takes note that the EIA for the Ama Dablam micro-hydropower project was approved following the IUCN review of March 2024 and that mitigation measures are reported to be in place, and further requests the State Party to ensure that the potential impacts of any other planned hydropower projects are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

11. Also regrets that the EIA for the reportedly large hydropower project proposed in Chaurikharka and Lukla, within the nationally designated buffer zone in the vicinity of the property, has been approved without details having been provided as requested, urges again the State Party to halt the aforementioned project until the requested information has been provided, and to provide further information on the project including the assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) as well as the current status of the project, as soon as possible, and no later than **1 December 2025**, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

12. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide a response regarding the reported amendment of wildlife legislation in 2024 which allows the construction of hydropower and tourism resorts in national parks, including any potential implications for the OUV of the property, in response to the World Heritage Centre's letter dated March 2024;

13. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.32**, **44 COM 7B.97** and **45 COM 7B.19** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Notes the actions undertaken by the State Party to continue cooperation and knowledge exchange at the national, transnational (with the State Party of Cambodia) and regional level (under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and CITES frameworks) to combat illegal trade in flora and fauna, including of Siamese Rosewood, and encourages its continued efforts in this regard;

4. Welcomes the reported decline in illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood between 2014 and 2024 by 94% in identified cases and 98% in the confiscated volume of timber, which is a testament to the dedicated management efforts to addressing this persistent threat to the property, and requests the State Party to continue providing adequate and stable resources for the property as a whole, including for the protection of Siamese Rosewood in line with the five-year Action Plan (2023-2027), to ensure that a resurgence in these incidents does not occur;

5. Reiterates its concern regarding ongoing considerations for the potential reduction in size of the Thap Lan National Park (TLNP) component part of the property, and recalls that undertaking a boundary revision at the domestic level with the potential to have a significant impact on the extent of the property or affect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) prior to developing and submitting a Significant Boundary Modification to the

World Heritage Centre, in line with the Operational Guidelines, and its subsequent approval by the World Heritage Committee, may lead to the property being faced with major threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, in accordance with Paragraph 180(b) of the Operational Guidelines, and that any creation of buffer zones should also be approved by the World Heritage Committee in accordance with Paragraph 107 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Notes with appreciation the efforts underway to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property, involving independent SEA coaching provided by the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA), and also requests the State Party to proceed with the SEA according to the proposed timeline and project guidelines;

7. Also notes the State Party's assurance that the construction of all dams proposed within and adjacent to the property remains suspended pending the completion of the SEA and its review by IUCN, and recalls again its previously stated position that dams with large reservoirs within property boundaries are not compatible with World Heritage status and should be permanently cancelled, in line with Decision **40 COM 7**;

8. Notes with concern that a detailed study on the expansion of Highway 348, which crosses the Ta Phraya National Park and Dong Yai Wildlife Sanctuary component parts of the property, is being carried out with the intent to propose a design plan by November 2025, despite the request in Decision **41 COM 7B.32** and commitment by the State Party to consider alternatives to the proposed expansion to avoid potential negative impacts on the OUV of the property, and therefore urges the State Party to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

9. Also notes with appreciation updated information on the increase in the tiger population in the country and implementation of the 1st Thailand Tiger Action Plan (2010-2022), and also encourages the State Party to continue its efforts through implementation of the 2nd Action Plan (2022-2034), particularly with regards to the three natural World Heritage properties in Thailand, given the endangered status of this species that is recognized as part of the OUV of all three properties;

10. Finally requests 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.

15. Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.5, 40 COM 8B.11, 43 COM 8B.5, 44 COM 8B.7** and **45 COM 7B.88**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the reported progress on implementation of the 2022 IUCN Advisory mission recommendations, as outlined in following paragraphs, and requests the State Party to continue towards addressing all recommendations;

4. Welcomes the State Party's continued commitment to transboundary conservation and the reported proposal to initiate cooperation activities with Myanmar, and continues to encourage the State Party to progress opportunities to collaborate with Myanmar in transboundary conservation and management of the highly significant nature conservation values of the region, with a view to considering a future extension of the property;

5. Notes with appreciation the confirmation that the area located between the property and the Myanmar border remains legally protected as a protected area under national law, and requests the State Party to continue effective protection of this area given its important conservation value, including in terms of connectivity with intact forest areas in Myanmar, to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

6. Recalling its concern regarding the unclear protection status of the Kui Buri Forest Reserve (KBFR) and the Army Reserve Zone, a critically important ecological corridor between the Kui Buri (KBNP) and Kaeng Krachan National Parks (KKNP) within the property, welcomes that efforts are underway to expand KBNP to include part of the KBFR, and requests the State Party to provide clarification on the options for the remaining part of the KBFR, to ensure that reporting and management accurately reflects the KBFR as part of the inscribed property, and to continue efforts towards consolidating the protection status of this area and management system building upon scenarios identified in the nomination dossier, in full consultation with all stakeholders and rightsholders;

7. Takes note that participatory processes are incorporated into policy and management frameworks and implemented through the individual Protected Area Committees (PAC), welcomes the establishment of a PAC for the property (KKFC-PAC), and requests the State Party to continue enhancing participatory management and governance arrangements enabled by the new legislation in place since 2019, including through meaningful participation of local communities;

8. Notes with appreciation that the development of a Management Plan for the property is under discussion, and requests the State Party to finalise it for the entire property, including the KBFR, involving all stakeholders and rightsholders;

9. Welcomes the continued State Party's focus on engagement with the Karen community in Ban Bang Kloy and the expedited efforts to resolve conflicts and foster peaceful coexistence, including establishment of working groups, and requests the State Party to continue working closely, and in full consultation, with the affected communities to address the longstanding conflicts, following a rights-based approach;

10. Takes note that no authorisation has been granted for the construction of the Nong Ta Dang (Purakam) Dam or Reservoir project within the Mae Nam Phachi Wildlife Sanctuary (MNPWS) and that impact assessment guidelines will be considered should the project proceed and, recalling its utmost concern that the dam is likely to negatively impact on the OUV given that the MNPWS is located adjacent to the property, and in an area initially nominated as part of the property and key for its integrity, and may further amplify the difficult relationship with the local communities, requests the State Party to ensure that potential environmental and social impacts of the project are fully assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including to consider a no-project option, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

11. Notes with appreciation the appointment of a working group to establish a buffer zone for the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue its efforts to formalize a buffer zone tailored to the local situation around the property through the Minor Boundary Modification procedure as soon as possible;

12. Notes with appreciation the various other conservation measures and partnerships underway within the property and encourages the State Party to continue such measures;

13. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.89**, **45 COM 8B.3**, **45 COM 8D** and **46 COM 7B.67**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property in a timely manner,

4. Takes note of the reported efforts to strengthen inter-provincial coordination between Quang Ninh Province and Hai Phong City, and requests the State Party to expedite the establishment of an integrated management body for the property and effective coordination mechanism between the Quang Ninh Province and Hai Phong City to support an integrated management approach for the property;

5. Also takes note that the Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy and Integrated Visitor Management System for Ha Long Bay are being finalised, however also regrets that the carrying capacity analysis for Ha Long Bay has not yet been expanded to the entire property, and urges the State Party to expedite this process and ensure that tourism management for the property is based on a clear assessment of the carrying capacity of the property as a whole, prior to proceeding with further infrastructure expansion;

6. Notes with utmost concern that tourism and infrastructure development along the coastline of Ha Long Bay (in the buffer zone) and on Cat Ba island (in the wider setting of the property), is continuing without a strategic assessment of cumulative impacts, and reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the cumulative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property from the tourism and industrial development projects that are located within the property, its buffer zone and in the wider setting to inform effective management planning and strategic decision making;

7. Also requests the State Party to ensure that any proposed developments within the property, its buffer zone and in the wider setting that have the potential to impact the OUV of the property are assessed for their potential impacts in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any projects that may impact the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Takes note of the State Party responses regarding the ‘Cat Ba Central Bay Tourism, Service, and Commercial Area Project’ in the wider setting of the property, however notes with utmost concern the potential significant impact of the project given its scale and proximity to the property, and further requests the State Party not to proceed further with

the project until its potential impact on the OUV of the property has been fully assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including on the aesthetic values and broader impacts of increased tourism pressure, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, noting that continuation of the project may lead to the property facing potential danger from major threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, in accordance with Paragraph 180(b) of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Notes with appreciation that the Master Plans and Management Plans for Ha Long Bay and the Cat Ba Archipelago are being updated, and that the development of an integrated Management Plan for the entire property has been initiated, and requests furthermore that the finalisation of these documents is coordinated and completed in consultation with all relevant authorities, addressing the 2023 IUCN Evaluation of the extension and Decision **45 COM 8B.3**;

10. Also takes note of the zoning map for Ha Long Bay, and requests moreover the State Party to submit the requested detailed zoning map of the entire Ha Long Bay - Cat Ba Archipelago property, showing the land use and management regime within its inscribed area, buffer zone and wider setting, to the World Heritage Centre, once completed;

11. Also notes with appreciation the implementation of various measures to address waste and other forms of environmental pollution, and encourages the State Party to continue addressing this issue;

12. Further notes with appreciation that the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in March 2025 and that its findings will be presented to the Committee at its 48th session;

13. 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling 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. Takes note of the 2019 pilot study for the eradication of the invasive plant species *Merremia boisiana*, and requests 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. Notes with appreciation 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,

also requests 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. Also recalling 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, further requests the State Party to provide clarification regarding third party concerns that the potential development of cable cars into the property is being reconsidered;

7. Notes with appreciation 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. Welcomes 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 encourages 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. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.26, 38 COM 7B.75, 39 COM 7B.19, 41 COM 7B.4, 41 COM 8B.7, 42 COM 7B.71, 43 COM 7B.13, 44 COM 7B.99, 44 COM 8B.32, 45 COM 7B.20** and **45 COM 8B.56** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the establishment of a permanent secretariat for the property, commends the States Parties of Austria, Belgium and Slovakia for providing funding and staffing for it, and encourages all other States Parties of the transnational property to also contribute to its funding and staffing;
4. Notes again with serious concern that major forestry interventions, such as shelterwood cutting and clear-cutting, which impact forest habitats and disturb natural processes, continue to be authorised in several buffer zones and, in some cases, within the property, urges the States Parties to suspend the practices, phase out related permits, and expedite the updating of Forest Management Plans;
5. Strongly encourages the States Parties to consider the 2022 IUCN technical review in the implementation of the Guidance document on buffer zone management and buffer zone zonation;
6. Requests the State Party of Albania to provide further information on the amendments to Law No 81/2017 “On Protected Areas”, including their impact on the protection of the property, and to continue ensuring that activities that may negatively affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are not permitted, while taking appropriate measures to effectively address possible environmental risks;
7. Also requests the State Party of Austria to prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, should any further drilling for gas near the property be considered;
8. Further requests the State Party of Romania to identify and implement an independently audited environmental management and monitoring plan to mitigate the impacts of the Cerna Belareca Hydroelectric Plant (CBHP) on the property’s OUV, and urges again the State Party to abandon plans to upgrade the national road 66A inside and/or in close proximity to the property, due to its potential adverse impact on the property’s OUV, and to explore appropriate alternatives;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party of Slovakia to urgently clarify third party concerns regarding the zonation plan for the Poloniny National Park and to submit the planned zonation and the park boundaries to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to their approval;

10. Requests moreover the State Party of Croatia to align the buffer zone boundaries with those of Paklenica National Park to ensure full and enhanced protection;

11. Also notes with serious concern the reported threat posed by the ongoing war to the component parts of the property in Ukraine, resulting in management challenges and increasing land and resource use pressures, and requests moreover the State Party of Ukraine to provide more detailed information on current and potential impacts of the war, land transformation and resource use, particularly within transboundary landscapes, which may disrupt ecological connectivity;

12. Further notes with concern the discrepancy between the reported size and configuration of component parts in Ukraine and what was approved by the Committee at the time of inscription, and requests furthermore the State Party of Ukraine to clarify the boundaries and protection status of its components as inscribed,

13. Also welcomes the progress made in phasing out forestry interventions in the buffer zones and component parts of the property, which may negatively affect natural processes in beech forest ecosystems and the property's OUV, and requests moreover the States Parties of Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy and Spain to submit detailed information on progress made and measures implemented, using the situation at the time of inscription as a baseline;

14. Further welcomes the review of buffer zone boundary effectiveness, and requests the States Parties to submit additional information on the study, including the thresholds and methodologies applied, to conduct an independent peer review of the study and its methods, and to complement it based on the review's recommendations, incorporating an analysis of land cover change since inscription, using the 2024 CORINE Landcover dataset;

15. Also strongly encourages the States Parties to develop and submit a single, coordinated request for a significant boundary modification, to include additional - and not to remove - relevant old-growth and corridor areas, strategically considering all individual proposals for boundary modifications, with the aim of enhancing the property's OUV, consistent with the integrity requirements outlined in the Operational Guidelines, also taking into account Decision **44 COM 8B.32** and the findings of the updated review of buffer zone boundaries effectiveness;

16. Finally requests 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.

19. Białowieża Forest (Belarus, Poland)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.5,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.21** and **46 COM 7B.50**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with concern that the ongoing geopolitical situation continues to impact the effective protection and management of the transboundary property as a whole, including through border barriers, associated infrastructure and security operations in the part of the property in Poland, which exacerbate ecological fragmentation initiated by the

existing barrier in Belarus, as well as through the lack of transboundary cooperation and continued human migration through the property;

4. Expresses its utmost concern regarding the potential impacts of the planned implementation of the 'East Shield' project in and near the property in Poland, and recalls the need to assess the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property through an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to any decision;

5. Reiterates that restoring ecological connectivity across the entire property is essential to safeguard its OUV, and that this would require modifying or partly dismantling barrier infrastructure, reiterates its concern that such actions are unlikely in the short to medium term without renewed transboundary cooperation, and urges the States Parties to take all possible steps to achieve restoration of ecological connectivity as early as possible;

6. Further recalls that the loss of ecological connectivity threatens the property's integrity and biodiversity, and that a new Reactive Monitoring mission would be required in 2027 to assess the implementation of the recommendations of the 2024 mission and re-evaluate whether the property still faces threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, as defined in Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, and notes that decisive urgent action is required to prevent such outcome;

7. Further notes the mitigation measures initiated by the State Party of Poland to address the impacts of the border infrastructure, including actions on hydrology, lynx monitoring, invasive species control, and the update of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) to include border barrier impacts, and also urges the State Party of Poland to continue and fully implement all mitigation measures, including the establishment of a comprehensive long-term research and monitoring programme on the property's OUV in order to allow for adaptive management of the threats and impacts of the border barrier and its associated infrastructure;

8. Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Poland and Belarus to resume, to the extent possible, transboundary cooperation, at least at the technical information exchange level, in order to facilitate the development and implementation of the recommended mitigation measures;

9. Notes with appreciation that the ongoing revision of the draft IMP for the part of the property located in Poland to reflect the recommendations of the Committee, including the integration of border security issues and alignment of Forest Management Plans (FMP) with the protection of the property's OUV, and requests the State Party of Poland to finalise the IMP following review of the draft by IUCN;

10. Further notes with appreciation the legal ban on wolf hunting in the part of the property located in Belarus and the ongoing scientific work to inform the Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park management plan, and further requests the State Party of Belarus to transmit the English translation of the draft plan to the World Heritage Centre for IUCN review;

11. Takes note that the new zonation proposal in Poland does not expand the active forest protection zone, that FMPs remain on hold pending finalisation of the IMP, and that the Forest Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan (FFPSP) has been revised and is under consultation, and also reiterates its request to the State Party of Poland to ensure that all habitat management in the property complies with the management arrangements described in the 2014 nomination dossier, including that the undisturbed wild nature is the basic principle for the management, by:

    a) Ensuring that the new zonation fully complies with the principles detailed in the 2014 nomination dossier and does not increase the active forest protection zone,

b) Ensuring that new FMPs justify all proposed interventions in line with the 2024 mission recommendations,

c) Revising the proposed FFPSP prior to its incorporation into the IMP to resolve any inconsistencies with the recommendations of the 2018 mission and management arrangements described in the 2014 nomination dossier;

12. Also takes note that additional measures are being considered for the Narewkowska road, also expresses concern regarding the reported approval of the construction and expansion of road No. 687 within the property in 2024, and requests furthermore the State Party of Poland to provide further details on this road development, including an assessment of any potential negative impacts on the property's OUV;

13. Further notes with appreciation actions by both States Parties to restore hydrological processes, reduce habitat fragmentation, and undertake ecological monitoring, and further reiterates its request to both States Parties to fully implement the remaining recommendations of the 2024 mission, in particular to:

a) Reinitiate the work on developing a Transboundary Management Plan and coordinate transboundary management actions to address the different conservation challenges of the property,

b) Undertake a new scientific evaluation of bison and red deer ecological carrying capacity for the entire property and implications for management of dispersal, migration and range expansion movements within and outside the property,

c) Bring wildlife management in the property better in line with undisturbed ecological processes as outlined in the mission recommendations,

d) Continue and further increase efforts to restore the natural hydrology of the property and include the research, monitoring and adaptation to climate change as a core guiding principle in all management planning,

e) Implement measures to further reduce habitat fragmentation by avoiding any further upgrading of roads, significantly reducing the number of forestry roads and the number of forestry fences,

f) Develop a vision on how the property can contribute to sustainable development of the surrounding region, based on a clear sustainable tourism strategy compatible with the protection of the OUV;

14. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 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 48th session.

20. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Regrets that no information has been provided regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requested by the Committee since 2013, and strongly urges again the State Party to prioritise and expedite the development of the SEA to inform the new draft Management Plan, including a specific assessment of the proposed management

objectives and zoning, to ensure that it adequately considers and reflects the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including potential impacts of development in areas within the buffer zone, and in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

4. Reiterates again its request to the State Party to develop the new draft Management Plan through public consultation with relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations, to comprehensively address the threats identified by the 2018 IUCN Advisory mission, to specify how the management priorities will help maintain the OUV of the property, including the protection of its integrity, and to submit the draft Management Plan in its entirety to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, prior to its adoption;

5. Also reiterates again its request to the State Party to ensure that, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, any new project within the property, its buffer zone, or wider setting, which may have an impact on the OUV of the property, is reported to the World Heritage Centre before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, and that its potential impact is assessed in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

6. Finally requests 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.

21. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.18**, **41 COM 7B.2**, **43 COM 7B.1, 44 COM 7B.190** and **45 COM 7B.22**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the continued implementation of the Action Plan and the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission of 2022 for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as well as the technical progress reported in areas such as hydrological modelling, species monitoring, and the development of the 'Integrated Research and Monitoring Program' (IRMP);

4. Expresses its concern about the lack of sufficient progress in addressing the cumulative impacts of industrial developments around the property, including the continued expansion of existing oil sands projects without full consideration of potential impacts on the OUV, as well as the ongoing consideration of proposals to allow the release of treated oil sands process-affected water (OSPW) into the Athabasca River, which may pose significant risks to the ecological integrity of the Peace-Athabasca Delta (PAD) and thus to the OUV of the property;

5. Notes with concern the lack of progress in implementing an independent risk assessment of the large tailings ponds upstream of the property; and underlines the importance of completing this assessment without further delay, in full consultation with all rights-

holders and stakeholders, particularly in light of the concerns raised by Indigenous rights-holders in the context of ongoing discussions regarding OSPW discharge;

6. Further notes with concern that many of the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission remain only partially addressed, including the update of the Action Plan to incorporate the 2022 mission recommendations following extensive consultation with Indigenous and governmental partners, and urges the State Party to accelerate the full implementation of these recommendations without further delay and to provide an update on their progress to the World Heritage Centre;

7. Welcomes the commitment to integrating the OUV of the property into federal impact assessments, and also urges the State Party to systematically assess the impacts of any project on the property's OUV in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

8. Expresses concern about the lack of measurable improvement in the ecological integrity of the PAD and the absence of a clear mechanism to monitor recovery against the impacts identified in the 2018 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);

9. Requests the State Party to ensure a legally supported, multi-year funding framework is in place to sustain conservation efforts and governance arrangements beyond 2026, developed with the participation of Indigenous rights-holders;

10. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2026, to assess progress in the implementation of the Action Plan and to update the assessment of whether the property faces threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines; and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, an interim report on the implementation of the above, to support the preparation of the said mission;

11. Takes note with concern of the reports from First Nations and Métis regarding ongoing challenges in the involvement of Indigenous rightsholders and encourages the State Party to align future strategic planning with emerging co-governance frameworks and the priorities of Indigenous partners during revisions of the property's management plan, and to incorporate the perspectives of Indigenous rightsholders and governance bodies in its future state of conservation reports;

12. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.23** and **46 COM 7B.51**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Appreciates the States Parties' continued tripartite efforts to jointly manage the property and address key challenges;

4. Welcomes the regular monitoring and data collection related to the impacts of climate change, the development of a joint 'Climate Change Adaptation Strategy', and activities

aimed at preserving the underlying values and attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and encourages the States Parties to continue implementing programmes to maintain the property's hydrological and ecological processes necessary for preserving the underlying values and attributes of the property's OUV, while mitigating the negative impacts of both climate change and anthropogenic activities;

5. Acknowledges that separate legislative frameworks, such as the European Union Directives, provide protection for the area in the vicinity of the property, and also encourages the States Parties to formalise a joint buffer zone to provide an additional coordinated layer of protection for the property;

6. Notes the updated information relating to various extraction projects and also appreciates the efforts of the relevant States Parties in reaching agreement with project proponents and operators to abandon further projects or cease activities;

7. Strongly requests the States Parties to continue to find legally binding, long-term solutions to ensure extractive activities do not adversely impact on the property's OUV, and requests the States Parties to continue to provide updates on individual projects in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Also welcomes the States Parties' implementation of a joint strategic approach to the construction of onshore and offshore renewable energy and transition infrastructure, and further encourages the States Parties to continue these efforts to secure solutions that ensure the protection of the property's OUV;

9. Also requests the State Party of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to submit additional information on the PAWOZ-Eemshaven Programme to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, including the results of an impact assessment, prior to any irreversible decisions being taken;

10. Reiterates its previous request to the States Parties to ensure that impact assessment procedures are conducted for all relevant planned and proposed activities and developments within and around the property, in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;

11. Also notes the submission of the scoping report for the pending joint Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), expresses concern regarding delays in this process, and further requests that the States Parties continue to prioritise the completion of the SEA to fully assess potential cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, taking into account IUCN recommendations and comments on the scoping study and in dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;

12. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, a joint 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling 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. Notes the efforts reported by the State Party to develop a sustainable tourism strategy for the property;

4. Notes again with concern that, despite these efforts, over-visitation remains a persistent threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular its biodiversity, and urges 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. Expresses its utmost concern about the low reproductive success rate of the osprey in the property, notes the identification of other factors that may negatively affect the reproduction of the species, and requests 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, also takes note of the ongoing projects and measures envisaged to address the impacts of climate change, as reported above, and reiterates its request 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. Welcomes positively the progress made in revising the 1975 decree for the Scandola Nature Reserve and in creating the Corsican Nature Reserve, and calls on 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. Notes 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 also encourages the State Party to strengthen measures to ensure strict compliance with existing regulations within the current maritime perimeter;

11. Strongly encourages 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. Further requests 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 further requests 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. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.93** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the State Party's continued work to reinstate the boundaries of Durmitor National Park in alignment with the boundaries of the World Heritage property as they existed prior to 2013;
4. Also welcomes the State Party's intention to add further areas to the national park, and recommends that the State Party submit a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification to extend the property and establish a buffer zone once the national park expansion is finalised;
5. Further welcomes the continued monitoring of downstream impacts from the Smokovac–Mateševo section of the Bar-Boljare motorway and the suspension of the proposed Brskovo zinc and lead mining project, and requests the State Party to continue monitoring any downstream impacts and the status of key species that are attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to notify the World Heritage Centre should any new impacts from the motorway project be detected or if any mining project is reconsidered, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Also requests an update on the proposed Komarnica Hydropower Project and its respective Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, notes that the State Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina has initiated a new EIA process for the potential Buk Bijela Hydroelectric Power Plant and has provided documentation to the State Party of Montenegro and reiterates its request that this EIA be conducted in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, ensuring any potential impacts on the OUV are thoroughly assessed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any irreversible decisions;
7. Also notes that the alignment of the Lastva Grbaljska–Pljevlja power transmission line remains under discussion and further requests that the State Party ensure an EIA, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, is undertaken to assess potential impacts of alternative alignments on the OUV, to inform decision-making and to submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for review;
8. Recalls that an expansion of ski infrastructure developments inside the property would constitute an ascertained danger to the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, notes with utmost concern third-party reports regarding the installation of artificial snowmaking systems at a ski resort within the property and urges the State Party to verify the situation and provide clarification and documentation to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and no later than by **1 December 2025**;
9. Finally requests 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.

25. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

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. Expresses once again its utmost regret 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. Urges once again 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. Reiterates its concern 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 urges furthermore 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. Requests 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. Encourages again 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. 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.

26. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.107, 45 COM 7B.24** and **46 COM 7B.52**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions, respectively,

3. Acknowledges that the State Party is taking remedial actions to reverse the environmental deterioration of the property, but notes with deep concern that the property continues facing significant ascertained and potential threats due to the long-term degradation of the water quality of Lake Baikal, persistent and increasing anthropogenic pressures, in particular related to pollution and tourism infrastructure development, as well as uncertain legal protection and lack of integrated management;

4. Requests the State Party to take urgent action to eliminate all direct wastewater discharges into Lake Baikal, upgrade outdated treatment facilities to meet international standards, and provide a comprehensive, annually updated inventory of pollution sources, with progress metrics publicly available via the Lake Baikal geoportal;

5. Reiterates its concern at the weakening of the legal protection of the property at a time when its ecological condition continues to deteriorate, which may place the property in potential danger in accordance with Paragraph 180(b) i) and iv) of the Operational Guidelines, and urges the State Party to secure and stabilise the legal status of the property to protect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), to assess the impact of any proposed legislative changes on the property and its OUV and submit these proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to their approval, as well as to avoid any legislative changes that may result in adverse impacts;

6. Welcomes the submission and public availability of the study on the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the water level regime of Lake Baikal, also urges the State Party to take into consideration IUCN's review of the study, and reiterates its request to the State Party to also submit the proposals on the water level regulation of Lake Baikal by end of 2025, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

7. Notes with serious concern the renewal of the temporary legislation on the water level regime of Lake Baikal continuing to allow increased water level variation, and reminds the State Party that any existing or proposed water level regulations should be compatible with the protection of the property's OUV and should not allow the water level variation to exceed one metre, as this may have a negative impact on the property and its OUV, until the legislative proposals and management regulations have been reviewed by IUCN and the requirements for the property's protection have been determined;

8. Notes the ongoing work to eliminate the accumulated environmental damage of the former Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill, which is expected to be completed at two of the three industrial waste storage sites by 2027, and also requests the State Party to continue reporting on the progress and implementation of the environmental safeguards;

9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide details of all major development initiatives within the property, including the 'Magic Baikal' and 'Baikal Sloboda' and the tourism master plan for Lake Baikal, to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in each Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which could be undertaken as a 'research and development' programme, to assess and mitigate the cumulative impacts of the existing and proposed projects on the property's OUV, and to develop an environmental management plan for the SEZs, before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

10. Welcomes the State Party's continued investment to support the conservation of the property; however, further reiterates its request to the State Party to continue implementing the urgent remedial measures and the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, and to develop an integrated management plan for the

property, and considers that if the overall ongoing degradation of the property's OUV is not halted and reversed and the legal protection of the property is not secured, **the property's urgent conservation needs may require a broad mobilisation to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;**

11. Welcomes the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia to strengthen cooperation for the protection of Lake Baikal, and further requests the States Parties to report on the outcomes of this cooperation to improve the ecological condition of the Selenga River and its basin, and on the plans for the Egiin Gol hydropower plant, including an assessment of the potential impacts of the project prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

12. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit detailed information on the current proposals for the Power of Siberia-2 gas pipeline, including any EIAs that have been undertaken, to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the 2026 mission to the property;

13. Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to take place during the summer season of 2026, to assess the progress made in reversing the degradation of the OUV of the property and in addressing the threats affecting its state of conservation, in particular those related to legal protection, tourism infrastructure development, pollution, land use pressures and management, including forest management, and to assess whether the property is faced with major threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, a progress report by **1 February 2026** and an updated report on the state of conservation of the property by **1 December 2026**, reflecting progress in the implementation of the above, including the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.17** and **45 COM 7B.25**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the progress made in updating the Management Plan for the property, including measures to address pollution, sustainable tourism management and climate change adaptation, and requests the State Party to submit the 2025-2030 Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre;

4. Notes the efforts to assess the impact of plastic pollution and accumulated environmental damage on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, but reiterates its request to the State Party to expedite the removal of all garbage and clean-up of associated contaminants, to submit a timetabled plan for its completion and to report on progress;

5. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a carrying capacity study and recalls that the scope of this carrying capacity study is to assess the various increasing

pressures on the property's fragile arctic ecosystem from human activities, including climate change, in order to inform spatial zoning and overall human presence;

6. Notes that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required prior to the approval of oil extraction in the offshore waters in the vicinity of the property where seismic testing is underway, and further requests the State Party to notify the World Heritage Centre should it proceed further, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and to submit an EIA scoping report for consideration by the Committee before proceeding with the full EIA;

7. Notes with concern that limited human, financial and expert capacity constrains environmental monitoring efforts, as reported by the State Party, and encourages the State Party to address these capacity gaps through all available means;

8. Recalls again the conclusion of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission, of which the Committee has already taken note, that the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger could be justified if it is not proven that the military presence within the boundaries of the property does not constitute an ascertained danger to its OUV;

9. Finally requests 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.

28. Virgin Komi Forests (Russian Federation)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling 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. Requests 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 encourages 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. Reiterates its established position that mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, and urges once again 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. Also requests 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. Recalls its concern regarding the financial resources available for the management of the property and further requests the State Party to confirm that sufficient resources have been allocated for the effective implementation of the management plan;

7. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling 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. Notes with appreciation 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. Urges again 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. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare a Master Plan for Tourism Development in the property, as recommended by the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;
8. Also requests 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,

e) 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. Further reiterates its request 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. 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, **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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.54**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Expresses its utmost concern over the weakening legal protection of important areas of the property, and requests the State Party to:

   a) Provide the World Heritage Centre and IUCN with detailed information on the boundaries, zoning, and regulations of the Mountain Adygea Nature Park and the Upper Tsitsa River Nature Park, along with high-resolution maps,

   b) Clarify the boundaries of the Bolshoi Thach Nature Park and restore its legal protection and management regime to at least the levels that existed at the time of inscription,

   c) Reverse the weakening of the legal protection of the Caucasus State Nature Biosphere Reserve (CSNBR) resulting from the establishment of the Biosphere Polygon,

   d) Restore the northern buffer zone of the CSNBR to its original boundaries, legal status and management regime by 31 December 2025, and submit a high-resolution map to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to any decisions regarding the area's use;

4. Also requests the State Party to finalise the ongoing process of establishing a buffer zone around the entire property, in consultation with regional and local authorities, and to

submit a high-resolution map to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to its formal adoption;

5. Recalls that the construction of large-scale infrastructure within the property, including on the Lagonaki Plateau, would represent a threat which could have deleterious effects on the property's inherent characteristics, in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, hence meeting the conditions for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, notes with utmost concern the continued advancement towards the development of the Lagonaki mountain all-season resort, and strongly urges the State Party to immediately cease all works at Lagonaki Plateau and to not proceed with the construction of the resort within the property;

6. Further requests the State Party to adopt a strategic approach to sustainable socio-economic development that is compatible with the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including by conducting a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and to update relevant legal frameworks to ensure cumulative impact assessments inform strategic regional planning and development;

7. Notes with concern the various proposed development and ongoing operation of linear infrastructure within the property, and urges the State Party to:

   a) Immediately halt the construction of the Lagonaki-Guzerypl road and submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to any further work,

   b) Provide detailed information on the proposed Lagonaki-Sochi road, the Arkyz-Krasnaya Polyana railway and highway, and any other planned transport infrastructure with potential negative impacts on the OUV of the property,

   c) Submit an EIA for the fire road leading to the Lunnaya Polyana Biosphere Centre, clarifying how it was determined that the road would have no impact on the OUV of the property,

   d) Clarify the location and usage of the Lunnaya Polyana Biosphere Centre and refrain from undertaking any future upgrades or expansions without prior submission of detailed plans and impact assessments to the World Heritage Centre;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to pursue and foster invasive species control programmes, including in cooperation with the IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group;

9. Takes note of the conclusions of the 2024 World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and further requests the State Party to implement all of the recommendations of the mission in a timely manner;

10. 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, **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**.

31. Doñana National Park (Spain)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.5,
2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.27, 38 COM 7B.79, 39 COM 7B.26, 41 COM 7B.9, 43 COM 7B.20**, **44 COM 7B.191** and **45 COM 7B.97** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's ongoing efforts to enhance the protection of the property, including the continued closure of illegal wells, the suspension of new water concessions within the aquifer, and improved coordination among institutions at national, regional and hydrological basin levels to ensure the coherent implementation of conservation and water management measures;
4. Notes with utmost concern that three of five groundwater bodies remain in poor quantitative condition due to ongoing over-exploitation, and reiterates its request to the State Party to fully implement all recommendations of the 2020 Reactive monitoring mission, as a matter of urgency, particularly those related to assessing groundwater recharge rates and establishing enforceable and sustainable extraction thresholds;
5. Also welcomes the progress towards establishing Groundwater User Communities (CUMAS) and encourages the State Party to ensure their full and timely operationalisation, supported by a clear legal framework and integration into the property's hydrological management system;
6. Notes with appreciation the submission of a draft system of monitoring indicators to assess the state of conservation of the property, also encourages the State Party to further refine these indicators to ensure alignment with the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including through the development of clear baselines, measurable thresholds and conservation targets, and requests the State Party to submit the finalised indicators to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN and to ensure their integration into the property's management and monitoring frameworks;
7. Further welcomes the transition of Veta La Palma estate from aquaculture to biodiversity-oriented management, and further encourages the State Party to ensure its full integration into the broader conservation strategy for the property;
8. Notes with satisfaction the State Party's intention to establish a buffer zone and encourages furthermore the State Party to finalise and submit a proposal of a Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre as a matter of priority;
9. Regrets the slow progress in the development of the ecohydrological model, recalls the need to clarify the relationship between hydrology and ecology to define the property's water requirements for maintaining its OUV, and therefore urges again the State Party to expedite the model's development in line with the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive monitoring mission to inform adaptive management and climate resilience measures;
10. Also regrets the delay in finalising the Climate Change Adaptation Programme, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and implement a strategic plan that addresses projected climate impacts, including concrete adaptation and mitigation measures and water use reduction targets required to maintain the property's OUV;

11. Expresses its utmost concern regarding the continued decline in wintering waterbird populations, and also requests the State Party to develop and implement a targeted conservation strategy to reverse this trend and safeguard the ecological integrity of the property;

12. Further regrets that, although the new Aznalcóllar mining project ('Mina Los Frailes') is in the final stages of the authorisation process, the information submitted to the World Heritage Centre remains insufficient to assess its potential impact on the OUV of the property, and further requests the State Party to submit the complete Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including a specific assessment of the project's potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to any final or irreversible decisions being taken;

13. Reiterates its view that, if the decline of the Doñana aquifer (Almonte-Marismas detritic aquifer) is not reversed through rapid and effective implementation of conservation actions, including the full implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, the continued degradation could result in significant adverse impacts on the OUV of the property and have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, in conformity with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, which may create the conditions for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

14. 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.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

32. Iguaçu National Park (Brazil)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.64** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Notes that the monitoring efforts undertaken by the Baixo Iguaçu hydropower plant (HPP) company report that no impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property have been identified, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure adequate monitoring programmes continue and are adapted, as needed, to inform appropriate management responses to the project's operations;

4. Strongly encourages the State Party of Brazil to cooperate with the State Party of Argentina in monitoring and responding to any impacts of the HPP on the contiguous properties of Iguaçu National Park (Brazil) and Iguazu National Park (Argentina), as needed;

5. Welcomes the continued efforts by the State Party to implement strategic conservation initiatives, particularly those targeting key species that support the property's OUV, such as the jaguar monitoring project undertaken in coordination with the State Party of Argentina;

6. Also notes that the two legislative proposals to re-open the Colono Road have not advanced in recent years, and urges again the State Party to continue monitoring any future legislative proposals that may seek to re-open the road, which could, if approved, represent a potential threat to the property's OUV and create the conditions for its re-inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Requests the State Party to continue implementation of the Public Use Plan (PUP) for the property and further notes the intention to develop a Visitation Guiding Number Monitoring Plan to identify and guarantee an appropriate carrying capacity for key locations within the property;

8. Commends the States Parties of Brazil and Argentina on taking steps towards the development of an international cooperation agreement to enhance coordination of conservation and management efforts for the two contiguous properties, including joint patrolling and biodiversity monitoring programmes as recommended by the 2015 Reactive Monitoring mission, and encourages the two States Parties to ensure adequate resources are secured for its effective implementation;

9. Also requests the State Party to ensure that the protection of the OUV of the property remains central to all major tourism planning decisions including as part of the comprehensive tourism infrastructure improvement programme;

10. Notes with concern the intention to construct a cable car project within or in the immediate vicinity of the property, and urges the State Party to complete an impact assessment that considers the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, including the visual impact on the integrity of the property, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

11. Finally requests 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.

33. Pantanal Conservation Area (Brazil)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling 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. Notes with deep concern 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. Commends the State Party for its efforts to prevent and combat wildfires, including interagency coordination and improvements in infrastructure, public policy, brigades and monitoring systems, also notes that climate change has exacerbated the extreme weather events, and requests the State Party to continue strengthening its capacity in fire management, including prevention and mitigation measures;

5. Reiterates its request 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. Encourages the State Party to strengthen environmental education programmes and the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities to reduce pressures on the property;

7. Notes with concern 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, also requests 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. Recognizes the impacts of fires on a number of natural World Heritage properties, welcomes the State Party's cooperation with other States Parties to address fire management and encourages the State Party to continue this exchange of knowledge and best practices of fire management strategies;

9. Finally requests 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.

34. Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.24, 44 COM 7B.196** and **45 COM 7B.65**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party to improve the property's resilience to climate change, including through the adoption of biodiversity and marine ecosystem management policies, as well as improved management effectiveness, but however, notes with concern an increase in wildfire-affected areas within the property from 2023 to 2024, and encourages the State Party to further strengthen its capacity for wildfire prevention, monitoring and rapid response;

4. Also recalling the State Party's previous confirmation that the authorization for a proposed Interoceanic Dry Canal project, which would have been incompatible with World Heritage status was rejected, notes with significant concern that a new Interoceanic Dry Canal initiative is under consideration, the precise location for which in relation to the property boundaries is unclear, and requests the State Party to ensure any potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are carefully assessed and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about any further developments on this proposal;

5. Also notes with concern the potential cumulative impacts of the multiple existing and proposed renewable energy projects and their infrastructures near and within the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) before approving any further renewable energy projects in order to

identify the best means to harmonize renewable energy initiatives and the conservation of the property's OUV, and also requests the State Party to submit the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Further notes with concern the proposed solar energy facility within the property, and further requests the State Party to ensure that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is undertaken, informed by the outcomes of the abovementioned SEA, to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, and to submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Takes note that the proposed Playa Santo Tomás project has not progressed, and reiterates its request to ensure an EIA is completed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, if it is to proceed;

8. Further notes with appreciation the research and mitigation efforts to reduce wildlife roadkill impacts on the Inter-American Highway and other roads, and reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to ensure the best possible management of all road infrastructure within and bordering the property and potentially impacting on the OUV of the property, including, but not limited to, the upgrading of Ecological National Route 918, the Inter-American Highway, and the exploration of the feasibility to improve National Road 4 as an alternative route;

9. Also welcomes the State Party's commitment to submit a Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) to incorporate the Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area into the property and encourages again the State Party to submit the corresponding MBM once the necessary conditions to ensure the effective protection and management requirements are in place;

10. Also notes with appreciation that 16,000 hectares of land have been acquired for conservation and to further consolidate the block of protected ecosystems, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide further details on this area in relation to the protection of the OUV of the property, and on the measures taken in the agro-landscape surrounding the property to ensure they effectively support the protection of the OUV ;

11. Finally requests 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.

35. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica, Panama)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.25**, **44 COM 7B.197** and **45 COM 7B.66**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the States Parties of Costa Rica and Panama for their efforts on surveillance, conservation and monitoring of the property with active participation of local and indigenous communities, as well as for adopting public policies to ensure this participation and to more fairly distribute the benefits generated by the property;

4. Notes with concern that illegal hunting, logging, land use change, wildlife and flora extraction, wildfires, illegal tourism-related activities, land encroachment and livestock continue threatening the property, and encourages the States Parties to continue control and surveillance activities with the participation of local and indigenous communities;

5. Welcomes the update of the La Amistad International Park Management Plan on the Panamanian side of the property and the Management Plan and Climate Change Plan on the Costa Rican side of the property, and also commends the States Parties for the harmonization of management plans on both sides of the protected area to ensure protection is consistent across this contiguous transboundary area of the property;

6. Recalls with appreciation the submission to the World Heritage Centre of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which was to inform the strategic approach to management and planning of developments, particularly hydropower projects, to avoid negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, notes the absence of a strategic consideration of hydropower development in the SEA, and reiterates that the Changuinola II (CHAN II) dam should not be permitted to be re-activated before the above has been adequately considered;

7. Also notes the efforts of the State Party of Panama to monitor activities of the CHAN I and Bonyic projects, and also requests the State Party to continue these efforts to establish long-term monitoring programmes with reliable funding mechanisms for the projects, and use the findings to design appropriate mitigation measures to ensure the OUV of the property is not negatively impacted, and integrate the monitoring processes and findings into the overall SEA for the entire property;

8. Also encourages the States Parties to enhance the protection of the surrounding areas of the property by formally establishing a buffer zone through the submission of a Minor Boundary Modification;

9. Finally requests the States Parties 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.

36. Galápagos Islands (Ecuador)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.67** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Notes with appreciation the progress achieved in implementing the 10-Year Galápagos Invasive Species Management Plan and other biosecurity measures that have resulted in reduced entry and spread of introduced species, and requests the State Party to provide adequate resources to consolidate these gains and further strengthen infrastructure and capacity to address this continued threat;

4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to integrate the indicators and identification of threats related to attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property into the updated version of the Management Plan for the property expected in 2025, in close collaboration with the relevant local institutions;

5. Notes the efforts dedicated to creating a clear vision for tourism planning for the property and the shift towards a regenerative tourism model that aims to support both environmental restoration and community development, while maintaining the principle

of “zero-growth” as the optimal scenario for long-term protection of the OUV, and urges the State Party to retain the protection of the OUV of the property at its core of tourism planning, which may require limits on factors such as visitor numbers and flight frequencies;

6. Also notes the initiatives underway to support tourism data collection, regularization and controls on accommodation infrastructure, and securing additional funding for conservation and management activities through the revitalization of the Galápagos Tourism Observatory, implementation of the new Galápagos Hotel Regulation Plan 2023-2030 and the increase to visitor fees, respectively;

7. Further notes that monitoring capacity for the Galápagos Marine Reserve and the Hermandad Marine Reserve for any illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing vessels remains a challenge, and encourages the State Party to secure additional resources to ensure adequate training, availability of technological equipment and expansion of patrol operations for monitoring in the property with regards to IUU fishing;

8. Welcomes the continued collaboration between the States Parties of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama on important issues of marine conservation and management, including IUU, in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR), and the development and implementation of the new CMAR Action Plan 2025-2035, and encourages these States Parties to continue their collaboration and their work towards the potential establishment of a transboundary marine biosphere reserve as outlined in Decision **45 COM 7B.67**;

9. Also encourages the State Party to consider developing a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification, in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines, to incorporate the Hermandad Marine Reserve, consistent with the planned extension of the Galápagos Biosphere Reserve, which would enhance the integrity of the property and ensure coherence between the international designations;

10. Also notes with appreciation the State Party’s efforts to address the persistent problem of plastic pollution in the property, including through the launch of the new Coastal and Marine Plastic Pollution Management Plan 2030 and a local ordinance, as well as its collaboration with other island states at the international level, and further requests the State Party ensure that adequate financial and human resources are dedicated to this threat to the property’s OUV and to facilitate implementation of the new management instruments dedicated to this issue;

11. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.114, 45 COM 7B.2** and **46 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions, respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the continued efforts by the State Party of Mexico in the conservation and monitoring of the property, including the implementation of species

recovery programmes and the establishment of a new Voluntary Conservation Area and reiterates its request to the States Parties of Mexico and the United States of America (USA) to expedite the implementation of the Recovery Plan and measures to avoid further depletion of scarce water resources;

4. Reiterates again its concern about the impacts on the property of the border wall constructed in the USA, which extends along the entire boundary between the property and adjoining areas of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and most of the Cabeza Prieto National Wildlife Refuge, with the exception of two mountainous areas;

5. Reiterates again its view that the physical presence of the wall has clear negative impacts on the integrity of the property and wider ecological connectivity thereby blocking the movement of critical wildlife populations, such as the Sonoran Pronghorn, which constitute important attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

6. Welcomes the border wall mammal monitoring research study underway within the property, undertaken by the University of Arizona in collaboration with the University of Sonora, in order to inform mitigation recommendation and requests that the report findings are submitted to the World Heritage Centre once available and to ensure they guide targeted mitigation and connectivity restoration efforts;

7. Notes with concern that no information has been provided regarding the urgent Action Plan to restore ecological connectivity, as requested in Decision **46 COM 7B.55**, and reiterates its requests to the State Party of the USA, in accordance with Article 6.3 of the Convention, to develop, resource and implement this urgent Action Plan in cooperation with the State Party of Mexico, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible and no later than **1 February 2026**;

8. Also reiterates that if ecological connectivity is not restored to safeguard the viability of key wildlife populations, the property may meet the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party of Mexico to ensure that the mitigation measures and operational conditions for the Puerto Peñasco photovoltaic project are consistent with the management of the property and to closely monitor potential impacts and take an adaptive approach to ensure that any negative impacts on the OUV of the property are avoided and that the conservation of the important biodiversity in the wider landscape, which supports the OUV, is ensured;

10. Encourages the States Parties of Mexico and the USA to strengthen their collaboration in addressing shared conservation challenges, in line with Article 6.3 of the Convention, to ensure the long-term conservation of the property's OUV;

11. Notes moreover that the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property has been postponed again, and further reiterates its request to the State Party of Mexico, in coordination with the State Party of the USA, to re-schedule this mission as a matter of urgency to assess the impact of the border wall on the OUV of the property and the measures taken to guarantee ecological connectivity of the property with the adjacent wildlife dispersal areas, alongside other factors potentially affecting the OUV;

12. 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 on the implementation of the above, for examination by the 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**.

38. Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.198** and **45 COM 7B.68**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,
3. Appreciates the measures taken to improve ecological integrity and restore degraded areas, with the participation of public institutions and local and indigenous communities;
4. Also appreciates that in 2023-2024, there was a decrease in the number of bushfires and land clearing, and reiterates its request for the State Party to continue taking appropriate actions, including by fully implementing the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to ensure these threats do not impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular to:
    a) Ensure that inter-institutional efforts to detect and prevent illegal logging activities within the property are further strengthened in the longer-term and ensure reforestation activities are continued in areas of the property impacted by illegal logging,
    b) Develop and implement additional surveillance programmes to halt deforestation in the buffer zone caused by the expansion of avocado production, and reclaim and restore the affected areas,
    c) Continue programmes supporting involvement of local and indigenous communities in conservation activities and develop additional ways of providing alternative income for these communities;
5. Welcomes the confirmation by the State Party that mining is legally prohibited within the property, and also reiterates its request to ensure that any such activities outside the property do not negatively impact its OUV, including through impact assessment processes in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;
6. Notes with deep concern that the 2023-2024 data for the Monarch butterfly is the second worst year since monitoring began in 1993, occupying only 0.9 hectares of forest in total, of which 0.273 hectares (30%) are within the property boundaries, highlighting the need for urgent measures to prevent a further decline in their population;
7. Further reiterates its request that the State Party finalize as soon as possible the 'Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve Management Program' and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, and continue implementing the National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Monarch Butterfly, and confirm what measures will be implemented following its expiration;
8. Also recalling the consistent occurrence of colonies of Monarch Butterfly establishing themselves outside the boundaries of the property, again strongly encourages the State Party to develop a proposal for an extension of the property to ensure that areas consistently occupied by overwintering colonies of Monarch Butterfly outside the property are appropriately protected and to increase the potential of the property to effectively conserve its OUV under changing climatic conditions, and to provide an update on the progress of submitting a boundary modification in the next state of conservation report;

9. Requests the State Party to provide information on the measures taken to manage the increase in tourism in the Senguio sector, ensuring that any negative impacts on the property's OUV are avoided, and to clarify this location in relation to the boundaries of the property;

10. Further appreciates the ongoing transboundary cooperation between the States Parties of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America to conserve the Monarch butterfly, and encourages the States Parties to continue their actions to conserve the species in their territories, in particular through national-level protective legislation and minimizing the loss and restoring milkweed habitat, as well as through the trinational collaboration to provide adequate protection to the Monarch Butterfly and its habitat throughout its migratory corridor;

11. Finally requests 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.

39. Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.115** and **45 COM 7B.69** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,

3. Notes with appreciation the ongoing update of the management plan for the property and the development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to this end, and requests the State Party to complete the SEA to ensure that it fully considers any potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of possible infrastructure or other development initiatives on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

4. Also notes with appreciation the confirmation that rehabilitation works at Gambute are being limited to structures that are necessary to ensure the functioning management of the property and will be subject to an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

5. Also requests the State Party to revise the ESIA for the proposed Port Barú port development project in the vicinity of the property, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to ensure that the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, including the cumulative impacts of vessel traffic and the risk of pollution, among others, are fully considered, and to avoid any negative impacts, prior to making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

6. Appreciates the ongoing monitoring efforts to assess the conservation status of species which contribute to the OUV of the property and to remove feral livestock from the property, and encourages again the State Party and its partners to continue with the eradication of the domestic water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and to maintain efforts to ensure the long-term ecological monitoring of species that constitute the OUV of the property;

7. Notes with appreciation that fisheries management measures have been introduced in the Special Zone for Marine Protection (SZMP), however reiterates its concern that several of the recommendations of the 2014 and 2016 missions are still not implemented,

and urges again the State Party to further improve the fishing regulations for the SZMP, in line with the recommendations of the missions, by:

a) Establishing additional no-take zones, including the Hannibal Bank Habitat Protection Zone, considering the significantly larger percentage of area covered by no-take zones within the Coiba National Park,

b) Implementing seasonal closures to fishing in critical replenishing zones,

c) Reconsidering the current approach to commercial fishing within the SZMP in line with regulations in place for Coiba National Park, in order to further reduce pressures from fishing on the property;

8. Also appreciates the ongoing efforts made in monitoring and enforcing the compliance of fishing regulations in the SZMP and the Coiba National Park through increased technological resources, and also encourages the State Party to continue with the measures to prevent and sanction illegal activities throughout the property and its zone of influence;

9. Also notes that the State Party intends to invite an IUCN Advisory mission to the property in 2025 to help further refine the fishing regulations and provide advice on their implementation, and further encourages the State Party to continue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to undertake the mission as soon as possible;

10. Commends the States Parties of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Panama for continuing their efforts to establish a transboundary marine biosphere reserve encompassing the World Heritage properties of Cocos Island National Park (Costa Rica), Galápagos Islands (Ecuador), Malpelo Fauna and Flora Sanctuary (Colombia) and the Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama), and encourages them to continue working towards the creation of the biosphere reserve;

11. Finally requests 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.

40. Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.70**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Notes with appreciation that the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) study for the property has been included under the Physical Planning and Development Act of Saint Lucia through Statutory Instrument, 2024, No. 107, making the recommendations of the study legally binding, and that this is a significant step forward in ensuring that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains central to future development planning and proposals;

4. Notes that the adoption of the Statutory Instrument is reported to have designated the property as an Environmental Protection Area (EPA), and requests the State Party to clarify whether this is a new designation or whether the property was already an EPA at the time of inscription, as indicated in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, and to clarify what additional protection measures this designation affords;

5. Also notes the further engagement with the Sugar Beach Resort and the intention to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate ongoing cooperation and compliance with the Statutory Instrument to protect the OUV of the property in relation to any future renovations, maintenance, and expansion activities, and strongly encourages the State Party to finalize and implement the MoU;

6. Also notes with appreciation the assurance by the State Party that any future projects considered for development will be subject to the provisions outlined in Statutory Instrument, 2024, No. 107;

7. Commends the State Party on the revision and update of the Management Plan for the property with the participation of a broad range of stakeholders, and also requests that the plan be formally approved, disseminated, adequately resourced, and reviewed, as needed;

8. Appreciates that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for an exploratory drilling phase of a geothermal energy project at Belle-Plaine, located outside of the property in an area referred to as the 'Green Buffer zone' (GBZ), was undertaken in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and further requests the State Party to report on any issues concerning the implementation of the mitigation measures and to clarify the status of the other proposed exploratory drilling sites mentioned to be outside of the GBZ;

9. Urges again the State Party to confirm that exploratory drilling will not be undertaken in the property and to ensure that the property remains off-limits for any geothermal development activities in the future in line with previous Committee decisions, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any potential impacts from geothermal energy development activities outside the property are assessed through a comprehensive ESIA, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and that no such activities are approved that would threaten the OUV of the property;

10. Welcomes the progress reported on the demarcation of the boundaries of the property and the GBZ, and urges the State Party to complete this process;

11. Notes with concern that there appear to be discrepancies in the boundaries and the total size of the property when comparing the maps provided in the updated Management Plan, the new Statutory Instrument, and the original map at the time of inscription, and requests the State Party to provide as a matter of urgency:

    a) A high-resolution topographic map of the property, including the various 'policy areas' or 'zones' and the GBZ, and

    b) A detailed clarification of any discrepancy between the boundaries and size of the property compared to the map at the time of inscription;

12. Also recalling the importance of buffer zones as an added layer of protection for conservation and integrity of the property, urges again the State Party to formalise the status of the GBZ as a formal buffer zone through a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

13. Finally requests 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.

41. Canaima National Park (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of))

Decision: 47 COM 7B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.199** and **45 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party to strengthen the presence of park rangers, including the establishment of a new ranger station, as well as continued surveillance patrols, education programs and establishing a cooperation agreement between Instituto Nacional de Praques (INPARQUES) and two Indigenous communities;
4. Notes with concern the continued forest degradation and deforestation occurring within the property, and recurring fires continuing to impact the ecological integrity of the property, and urges the State Party to adopt and implement an integrated and effective fire prevention and management strategy, as well as to address the underlying drivers of forest loss, particularly small-scale agriculture and recurring droughts;
5. Notes again with concern that it remains unclear whether the planned and existing mining operations within the Orinoco Mining Arc National Strategic Development Zone (ZDENAMO) rights areas close to the property have been subject to impact assessments which fully assess the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests again the State Party to submit the territorial analysis and status of mining projects in this area to the World Heritage Centre, and to ensure that all proposed mining projects which could potentially impact on the OUV of the property are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
6. While welcoming the information that most of the property remains intact, also notes with concern the confirmation by the State Party of the occurrence of some illegal mining activities within the property, also reiterates its request the State Party to provide further information ahead of the requested Reactive Monitoring mission on the current extent and status of any illegal mining activities in the property to the World Heritage Centre, and also urges the State Party to take immediate and effective action to halt such activities and rehabilitate affected areas;
7. Once again regrets that the State Party did not issue a new invitation for the Reactive Monitoring mission after its postponement, and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite without further delay a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to:
    a) Assess, including through on-the-ground visits where feasible, the degree to which the property's OUV, including its integrity, might have been affected by illegal mining activities,
    b) Review the planned and ongoing legal mining activities in the parts of ZDENAMO located in the vicinity of the northern border of the property and assess whether they might result in any potential negative impacts on the OUV of the property and provide advice to the State Party in ensuring that assessment of possible impacts on the OUV of the property is integrated into existing national regulations for mining;
8. Noting the reported increase in visitor numbers to the property, requests the State Party to ensure the implementation of a tourism management strategy that considers the

protection of the OUV of the property, and to also report on its actions to prevent, detect and respond to invasive species that may be spread by increasing tourism;

9. Considers that the property is facing multiple threats from cumulative impacts of mining, land use change and fire, and that therefore timely response is required by the State Party to effectively respond to these to not place the property at greater risk of ascertained and/or potential danger in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit an official proposal for clarification of the boundaries of the property within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, according to paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines concerning Minor Boundary Modifications;

11. 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.

AFRICA

42. W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.3** and **46 COM 7B.56** adopted during its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and its 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Deplores the continuing insecurity in the region of the property, marked by the presence of armed groups and further loss of life among the Benin Defence and Security Forces (FDS) and African Parks rangers following the attacks in 2024 and January 2025, expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to all conservation staff on the ground, and appreciates the efforts of the States Parties to maintain a presence on the ground;

4. Welcomes the continued implementation of the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, despite the difficult security context, encourages the States Parties to continue their efforts and transboundary cooperation for the full implementation of the recommendations, including better monitoring and securing of the property, and requests the States Parties to provide accurate data on the monitoring coverage of the property as well as its effectiveness;

5. Takes note of the strengthening of the West African Savannah Foundation (FSOA), the forthcoming operationalisation of its regional window, the establishment of the Executive Secretariat of the W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (SE-WAP) by mid-2025, and the organisation of the last two national consultations for the ‘Initiative to support the sustainable management of the WAP Complex’, as a prelude to the Regional Emergency Plan for the property, thanks the various technical and financial partners who continue to support the States Parties in their efforts to conserve and secure the property, and also calls on the States Parties to finalise the operationalisation of the SE-WAP for sustainable financing of the property;

6. Noting that the 2024 aerial inventory, based on the 2019 methodology and carried out exclusively in Benin, shows an increase in elephant, buffalo and hartebeest populations, but a decrease in damalisks and hippotragues, as well as a significant presence of domestic livestock, further requests to investigate the causes of the decrease in damalisks and hippotragues, reiterates its request to the States Parties to carry out aerial inventories covering the entire property as soon as the security situation permits, and also encourages them to conduct regional discussions to identify the causes of transhumance and find sustainable solutions with the involvement of local communities and transhumant herders;

7. Also notes the abandonment of the Derby eland translocation project between Benin and the Central African Republic due to the high risks, and of the regional reflections on all translocation projects in WAP-Benin, recalls that any translocation operation must respect international standards and benefit from the technical advice of relevant experts of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and requests furthermore the States Parties to inform it of the progress of the projects, to carry out the planned in-depth studies, and to share the results of these studies with the World Heritage Centre for examination by the IUCN, before any final decision is taken;

8. Recalling also that the IUCN evaluation of the preliminary report of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Niger-Benin oil pipeline project had highlighted the absence of an analysis of the specific impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), expresses its concern that sabotage attempts against the pipeline could increase the risk of hydrocarbon pollution and conflagration along the pipeline route, notes the current implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and further encourages the States Parties to continue these actions and to take all necessary precautions to avoid negative impacts on OUV;

9. Further recalling that IUCN's analysis of the ESIA of the Banikoara - Kérémou - Burkina-Faso border road construction and asphalting project had revealed negative impacts on soil, vegetation, water and air, also notes the suspension of works due to the security situation in the portion of the property, and requests moreover the States Parties to provide the World Heritage Centre with detailed information concerning additional measures taken to avoid any negative impact on the OUV of the property in addition to the ESMP already in place, prior to any decision to continue the implementation of the project;

10. Regrets that the request for a minor boundary modification of the property in its Benin component to strengthen its protection, due by 1 February 2025 as recommended in Decision **46 COM 7B.56**, has not been submitted, and invites the State Party of Benin to finalise this process, with the support of the other two States Parties, and to submit this request as soon as possible for examination by the World Heritage Committee;

11. Further requests the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to follow closely the evolution of the situation on the ground, and to carry out the joint reactive monitoring mission requested by the Committee in its Decisions **45 COM 7B.3** and **46 COM 7B.56** in order to assess the measures undertaken by the States Parties to restore security, strengthen the management of the property and determine whether the OUV remains under threat, as soon as security conditions permit in the three countries;

12. Finally requests that the States Parties submit by **1 February 2026**, to the World Heritage Centre an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above-mentioned points, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilisation to preserve its outstanding universal value, including possible inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

43. Okavango Delta (Botswana)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling 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. Welcomes 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 encourages 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;
4. Acknowledges the improvements in the maintenance and monitoring of veterinary fences and the establishment of wildlife corridors, and requests the State Party to further assess their ecological impacts and continue efforts to enhance wildlife corridors;
5. Notes with satisfaction 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, expresses concerns over the high carcass ratio (12.8%) found in northern Botswana, and also encourages 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. Also welcomes 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. Further welcomes 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 further encourages 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. Also notes 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, recalls that these changes could be worsened by development projects in the CORB, potentially impacting the property's OUV, and urges 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. Takes note 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 emphasizes however that precautionary measures must be maintained;

12. Also acknowledges the State Party's efforts to rehabilitate the borrow pits used during the Okavango River Bridge construction, and further requests 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. Recognizes the broad range of regional cooperation frameworks active in the region, including OKACOM, the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), KAZA TFCA, and SADC, stresses 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. Finally requests 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.

44. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroun)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **33 COM 7B.1**, **34 COM 7B.1**, **35 COM 7B.1**, **36 COM 7B.1**, **40 COM 7B.79**, **43 COM 7B.29**, **44 COM 7B.173** and **45 COM 7B.5** adopted respectively at its 33rd (Seville, 2009), 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,

3. Commends the State Party and its partners for the significant efforts made to strengthen the management of the property, notably through the enactment of the Forestry and Wildlife Regime Law (loi sur le régime des Forêts et de la Faune) , capacity building of management teams and monitoring initiatives, which have led to the conviction of poachers and the confiscation of key species, and thanks the technical and financial partners who continue to support the conservation of the property, in particular the European Commission and the World Heritage Fund through the Government of Norway;

4. Takes note of the stability of the populations of emblematic species such as elephants and great apes in the property, and calls on the State Party to consider conducting

regular wildlife inventories in the property with a particular focus on emblematic species, using the same methods, in order to confirm the trends observed, and to submit the detailed wildlife inventory report to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible;

5. Encourages the State Party to set up a collaborative platform bringing together all the actors involved in the conservation of the property, including local authorities, NGOs, neighbouring communities and international partners, in order to coordinate efforts, harmonize methodologies for monitoring emblematic species, centralize data in a common database accessible to all partners, under the main responsibility of the management team, and regularly share results with the World Heritage Centre;

6. Welcomes the improvements in ecological monitoring thanks to the use of the SMART tool, camera traps and drones, and also encourages the State Party to continue its ecological monitoring and surveillance efforts by strengthening the fight against poaching and the involvement of local communities in consultation meetings such as the Stakeholder Forum to improve the effectiveness of the management of the property;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to accelerate discussions on the enlargement of the functional buffer zone around the property in order to align it with the boundaries of the biosphere reserve, further encourages the State Party to register this buffer zone once designated, in accordance with Paragraph 107 of the Operational Guidelines, and encourages furthermore the State Party to consider updating the Development and Management Plan (Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion - PAG) in accordance with international best practices, ensuring the participation and consultation of local communities and stakeholders;

8. Notes the progress made in the planned materialization and securing of the South-East corridor ensuring connectivity between the property and the other protected areas of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé Landscape (TRIDOM), recalls the importance of maintaining this ecological continuity to guarantee the long-term integrity of the property, and also requests the State Party to ensure that any development proposal in this area is properly evaluated in order to prevent any potential negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

9. Expresses its concern at the persistent delays in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 advisory mission and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (Plan de Gestion Environnementale et Sociale – PGES) associated with the Mékin hydroelectric dam project, and urges the State Party to take immediate actions to accelerate the implementation of these recommendations and to submit a detailed report to the World Heritage Centre on the actions taken to mitigate these impacts and on the progress made;

10. Also takes note of the submission of the final report of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for development projects in and around the Dja Faunal Reserve, expresses its deep concern at the major divergence between the analysis of the potential impacts on the OUV of the property and the conclusion of the SESA, recommending the status quo option, which would authorize the realization of all current and planned projects despite their significant individual and cumulative negative impacts, as identified in the SESA report;

11. Recalls that since 2012, the Committee has repeatedly expressed its concerns regarding the various development projects in the vicinity of the property and their individual and cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, and also urges the State Party to review and revise the SESA in order to ensure that the preferred option is based on a rigorous and objective analysis, fully integrating environmental, social and heritage considerations, so as to address the pressures related to the preservation of the integrity and values of the property, and to submit the revised SESA to the World Heritage Centre, for further review by IUCN, prior to any final decision;

12. Finally requests 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.

45. Sangha Trinational (Cameroun, Central African Republic, Congo)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.174** and **45 COM 7B.72**, adopted respectively at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,
3. Welcomes the efforts of the States Parties and their partners to improve the efficiency of the management of the property through the continued capacity building of the eco-guards, the acquisition of equipment for ecological monitoring and surveillance of the property, and the consolidation of cross-border cooperation;
4. Also welcomes the sustained efforts of the States Parties to promote, engage and guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), particularly in the context of the implementation of the recommendations of the WWF International independent review, and calls on the States Parties to continue these efforts by harmonizing approaches at the property level while ensuring the comprehensive implementation of these recommendations;
5. Notes with concern the significant increase in poaching rates, in particular the 47 cases of elephant killing since 2022 in the Central African Republic (CAR), and urges the States Parties to strengthen cross-border collaboration through joint patrols, information sharing, training of customs officers, and the harmonization and strict enforcement of sanctions, while increasing the number of personnel and surveillance resources;
6. Also notes with concern the upsurge in conflicts between humans and wildlife in the villages adjacent to the property, and encourages the States Parties to step up the efforts to reduce these conflicts by adopting deterrence techniques and promoting crops that are less attractive to the species involved, while raising awareness among local communities;
7. Further welcomes the progress in the planning of synchronized wildlife inventories planned for 2025 and the creation of a single database for the property, and also requests that the methodologies adopted be comparable and reproducible, considering all the species characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and that the results of these inventories be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre;
8. Also recalling that an earlier assessment of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Ouesso-Bangui-Ndjamena road project by IUCN had shown that the impacts of the Pokola-Enyellé section on the OUV of the property, in its Congolese component, had not been addressed, reiterates its request to the State Party of Congo that this ESIA be revised in accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.72**;
9. Takes note of the absence of progress in the project to open a Congo-Cameroon cross-border road, expresses its concern about the potential individual and cumulative impacts of major infrastructure projects on the OUV of the property, and further requests the States Parties to submit an updated comprehensive review of all ongoing and planned projects in the area;

10. Also takes note of the commitment of the States Parties to ensure that the ESIAs for all new projects in and around the property are carried out in accordance with Decision **45 COM 7B.72**, and their wish to invite an Advisory mission for this purpose, and also encourages the States Parties to engage in further exchanges with UNESCO and IUCN to discuss the most effective approach as well as the specific expectations of the States Parties and to disseminate the use of the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* among key stakeholders;

11. Welcomes furthermore the progress made in preventing mining activities in the property, in particular the lapse of the KOLI exploration permit in Congo and the enactment of the Mining Code of the Central African Republic, and requests the State Party of the CAR to submit the ESIA report for the SCED-Ndélengué artisanal mining zone (zone d'exploitation artisanale – ZEA) project to the World Heritage Centre;

12. Regrets the absence of progress in the environmental certification of the two logging concessions located in the buffer zone in the CAR and also reiterates its request to the State Party to prioritize this certification in order to avoid any potential impact on the property's OUV;

13. Noting the lack of recent information on the updating of the management plans for the Cameroonian and Congolese components, also requests the States Parties to provide an update on these plans and to consider the development of a harmonized management plan covering the whole of the property;

14. Further reiterates its request to the States Parties to continue to implement the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission and to provide a comprehensive report on the status of their respective implementation;

15. Finally requests 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.

46. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7A.40**, **43 COM 7A.10**, **44 COM 7A.44** and **45 COM 7B.6** adopted respectively at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions,

3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts, with the support of its partners, to reinforce the operational capacities of park officers, promote conservation while respecting the rights of local communities and improve the relationship between the populations and the park, and requests the State Party to continue implementing the Committee's decisions and the recommendations of the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;

4. Takes note with satisfaction of the reduction in alleged violations of the communities' rights and encourages the State party to guarantee the full functioning of the complaints and appeals mechanism, the Salonga National Park Steering Committee (CPPNS) and the Site Coordination Committee (CoCosi), while ensuring regular evaluation to draw lessons applicable to other properties of the State Party;

5. Also encourages the State Party to finalize the Yaelima and Kitawala communities' supervision programme to limit the negative impacts on the park's resources, recalls the need to consult the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as part of this constructive dialogue in accordance with Decision **40 COM 7A.40**, and insists that any future relocation be voluntary and in line with the principles of the Convention and relevant international standards;

6. Takes note of the retirement of 31 eco-guards and of the recruitment planned for 2025, and also requests the State Party to accelerate the process of rejuvenating the workforce, while putting in place a proactive strategy to manage the career plans of the eco-guards in order to ensure a sufficient presence in the field at all times;

7. Notes with concern the persistence of illegal activities as well as the numerous signs of poaching still visible in the property and further encourages the State Party and its partners to continue strengthening the human, technical and financial capacities dedicated to the fight against poaching, both in terms of staffing and training, and to accelerate the establishment of a funding mechanism for the implementation of all property management functions;

8. Notes positively the ecological monitoring efforts of the emblematic species in the property, in particular the advances achieved in monitoring bonobos and other large mammals, and encourages furthermore the State Party to guarantee the continuity of these efforts;

9. Also takes note of the progress made in the bonobo habituation programme, which could help generate additional resources for the park through tourism, and further requests the State Party to ensure rigorous planning, careful execution and ongoing evaluation of the programme and to follow best practices, such as the IUCN's ″Best practice guidelines for health monitoring and disease control in great ape populations″;

10. Also welcomes the cancellation of the call for tenders for 27 oil blocks, including the one adjacent to the property, but also reiterates its position that gas, oil and mining exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, a position supported by the commitments made by the leaders of these industries not to undertake such activities in World Heritage properties, and encourages moreover the State Party to definitively cancel the oil concession overlapping the property;

11. Also noting that the process of demarcating the property's non-natural boundaries is progressing and will continue in 2025 with the contribution of the Government of Norway, finally encourages the State Party to finalize it as soon as possible;

12. Noting further and with regret that the process of creating forest concessions has not yet been completed, despite its importance in ensuring key ecological functions between the two blocks of the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize as soon as possible the creation of forest concessions for local communities with a vocation for conservation and to provide this space with a protection status and a simple management plan;

13. Finally requests 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.

47. Simien National Park (Ethiopia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.81** and **45 COM 7B.73** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party, with the support of its partners, in responding to past Committee decisions, including progress in the implementation of the 2020-2030 General Management Plan (GMP) and the Fire Management Plan, the monitoring of flagship species, and the continued support for sustainable livelihoods for the relocated Gich community and other local communities;
4. Takes note of the continued implementation of the GMP, regrets that the lack of submission of the GMP as previously requested makes it challenging to assess whether the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is adequately considered in its implementation, and therefore requests the State Party to submit a detailed progress report on its implementation, including specific measures to safeguard the OUV of the property;
5. While welcoming the regular monitoring of flagship species within the property and the reported increase in the Gelada population, which indicates encouraging signs of recovery for this species, notes with utmost concern the ongoing and severe decline in the population of the Walia ibex, including a reported reduction of more than 50% compared to 2023, and urges the State Party to prioritize and implement urgent and targeted measures to ascertain the root causes, and halt and reverse the decline of the Walia ibex population, including:
    a) Strengthening anti-poaching initiatives by deploying Rapid Response Teams and increasing patrolling efforts,
    b) Utilizing advanced monitoring technologies, such as drones and GPS-enabled tracking systems, to enhance surveillance and gather real-time data on the species,
    c) Intensifying community engagement efforts to raise awareness and foster local support for Walia ibex conservation,
    d) Enhancing law enforcement capacity within the property;
6. Encourages the State Party to expedite the development, finalization, and implementation of the Walia ibex National Recovery Action Plan in collaboration with international experts, particularly the Caprinae Specialist Group of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, and to allocate sufficient resources for its execution;
7. Also takes note of the reported progress in habitat expansion for key species such as the Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and other antelopes through the implementation of the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy, and also requests the State Party to continue addressing grazing pressures to reduce its ecological impacts;
8. Further noting that the draft Tourism Management Plan is being implemented, further requests the State Party to finalize the Plan as soon as possible to guide the monitoring and management of proposed tourism developments;
9. Noting furthermore of the State Party's compliance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the requirement for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for eco-lodge development, reiterates its concern that the EIAs for

the Angobaras and Simien Mountains lodges did not sufficiently consider the OUV of the property in their site selection and design, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit EIAs for the Jacaranda and Kibran lodges previously reported;

10. Notes again with significant concern the continued construction of tourism infrastructure inside the property, requests moreover the State Party to provide clarification on the current status of all tourism infrastructure projects inside and in the buffer zone of the Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP), and urges once again the State Party not to continue these developments in their current locations before assessing the impacts of each project on the OUV, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit the outstanding Fire Management Strategy and provide a detailed update on fire-affected areas and their recovery, particularly in relation to the property's OUV;

12. Also welcomes the progress on the development of a Significant Boundary Modification proposal for the property, including the formalization of a buffer zone;

13. Notes moreover the progress made by the State Party on the alternative road construction project intended to reduce disturbances from the existing main road, but that the EIA for the section of the new road crossing the SMNP was not submitted as requested, also urges once again the State Party to submit the required EIA to the World Heritage Centre;

14. Notes furthermore that the power transmission re-alignment project has not progressed since 2022, and that the required EIA was also not submitted, reiterates again its request to the State Party to assess the visual and ecological impacts on the property, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to the commencement of any activities;

15. Finally requests 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.

48. Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.89** and **45 COM 7B.72** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Notes the persistent rise in water levels of the property, and calls on the State Party to continue monitoring the potential causes and impacts on wildlife species, particularly the lesser flamingo, a key attribute of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

4. Appreciates the State Party and UNESCO initiative on a new project, funded through the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, which aims to address some of the pending actions requested previously by the World Heritage Committee, including to assess changes in lesser flamingo populations, developing a lesser flamingo action plan, thanks the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its support and encourages the State Party to report on its implementation;

5. Encourages again the State Party to undertake a survey on the changes within the lesser flamingo populations in the East African Rift and develop a Lesser Flamingo Action Plan for the region, in cooperation with the IUCN Species Survival Commission Flamingo Specialist Group and further encourages the State Party to request financial assistance from the World Heritage Centre for this work;

6. Takes note of the implementation of recommendations from the 2021 scoping report on the impacts of rising lake water levels and also requests the State Party to provide a detailed update on the results of the implementation of these recommendations in its next state of conservation report;

7. Also takes note that the proposed wildlife corridor linking Lake Nakuru and Lake Naivasha is suspended, and recalling that, at the time of inscription, the ecological connectivity between Lake Nakuru and Lake Elementaita was recognized as important, acknowledges that ecologically, while terrestrial connectivity between Lake Nakuru and Lake Naivasha may seem beneficial, the avian biodiversity which dominates the OUV of the property relies more critically on the flyway linkage between Lake Nakuru and Lake Elementaita, and that prioritizing the conservation and management of this avian flyway provides a more targeted and feasible ecological return;

8. Acknowledges the review of the Management Plan for Lake Elementaita to implement the decisions of the 2020 Naivasha coordination meeting, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit the pending report and to consider developing a harmonized Management Plan for the entire property, possibly within the framework of the new project;

9. Notes that the regular monitoring of bird mortalities and deployment of mitigation measures along the powerline passing 5 km from Lake Elementaita, and that the line is not located within the immediate wetland or breeding grounds of the lake's birdlife, and does not traverse flamingo breeding areas or bird congregation zones, and acknowledges that electrocution risk is typically highest where large-bodied raptors perch on narrow structures or touch conductors simultaneously, a scenario less likely in open-country lines with modern spacing standards;

10. Finally requests 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.

49. Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

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. Welcomes 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, thanks 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 encourages the State Party to ensure effective coordination between

projects and partners to improve effectiveness and coherence with management and conservation priorities;

4. Notes with concern 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, reiterates its request 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. Takes note of a proposal for a Cape Maclear Water Supply Project in the property, further requests 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 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. Also welcomes the plan to develop a new Management Plan for the property, requests furthermore the State Party to coordinate this work with the ongoing efforts to strengthen the property management, including through the resource use guidelines, and simultaneously expedite the Retrospective Inventory of the property boundaries, and also encourages the State Party to request technical assistance from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN for this latter, as required;

10. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to continue to report on the implementation of the recommendations from the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission;

11. Finally requests 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.

50. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **44 COM 7A.50**, **45 COM 7A.13** and **46 COM 7A.54**, adopted at its 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) extended sessions, and its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024), respectively,
3. Welcomes the continued implementation of the recommendations of the joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission conducted in 2024 and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to fully implement these recommendations in order to improve the management of the property following its removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
4. Takes note of the ongoing updating of the Development and Management Plan (PAG), carried out in a participatory manner, and requests the State Party to accelerate this process in order to ensure continuity in the management of the property, while guaranteeing the involvement of all stakeholders, including local communities, at all stages of its development;
5. While welcoming the improvement in the monitoring coverage of the park by the SMART tool, from 33% in 2023 to 47.5% in 2024, stresses that this coverage remains insufficient to limit illegal activities, notably poaching and gold panning, and to ensure optimal protection of the property, and also encourages the State Party to progressively extend the coverage to the entire area of the property and to strengthen the management and analysis of the data collected in real time in order to optimise responsiveness and decision-making in the face of potential threats;
6. Also notes the results of ecological monitoring of the populations of wild dogs, lions, hartebeests, panthers and chimpanzees, as well as the observation of certain key species in the property, notes however the lack of data concerning the viability of populations of species characteristic of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and also requests that conservation efforts for species characteristic of the property's OUV be intensified;
7. Noting with concern the lack of direct sightings of elephants in 2024, which were once abundant in the property, further notes the ongoing discussions regarding the possible translocation of elephants and urges the State Party to consult and take into consideration the advice of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) African Elephant Specialist Group prior to the implementation of any elephant translocation operations to the property;
8. Also notes the interest in submitting a request for international assistance to conduct updated wildlife inventories in the property and invites the State Party to also explore complementary funding from other partners to ensure long-term ecological monitoring of key species, taking into account that the property is inscribed under criterion (x) only;
9. Noting positively the planned closure of the Mansadala quarry and the rehabilitation of the site in 2025, further calls on the State Party to put in place immediate transitional measures, such as the planting of native vegetation and the management of run-off water to limit erosion, and to maintain continuous monitoring and regular evaluation of the effectiveness of the rehabilitation measures;
10. Further notes the commencement of SGO ENDEAVOUR's activities on the periphery of the property following the granting of environmental approval, expresses its concern

about the major potential impacts identified in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) on the OUV of the property and its peripheral zone, and also urges the State Party to implement as soon as possible a strengthened environmental management plan, including appropriate compensatory actions to minimize the negative impacts of the operation, and to share progress with the World Heritage Centre;

11. Acknowledges the agreement with the High Commission of The Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (OMVG) to mitigate the impacts of the Sambangalou Dam on the Gambia River, recalls that, according to the ESIA, these impacts directly affect emblematic species by modifying their habitats and life cycles, and further urges the State Party to immediately implement the measures proposed by IUCN in its technical assessment of the ESIA, in addition to the recommendations of the 2024 mission;

12. Expresses its serious concern that the potential cumulative impacts of the Sambangalou Dam and mining on the periphery of the property could compromise the ability of the Park to maintain its heritage value in the long term, also reiterates its position that oil, gas and mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status, and further requests the State Party:

    a) To avoid all mining, gas and oil activities within the perimeter of the property or, in its periphery, if the activity could create negative impacts on its OUV,

    b) Systematically assess the impacts of any mining project on the OUV of the property through ESIAs in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and submit them to the World Heritage Centre before any decision is taken;

13. Finally Requests 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.

51. iSimangaliso Wetland Park (South Africa)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.9** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Notes that the swamp forest areas previously affected by clearing and burning activities have shown continued natural recovery and requests the State Party to confirm its plans for any further human-led rehabilitation efforts;

4. Also notes the State Party's continued community engagement and empowerment, including with the Nibela community, and maintaining the dialogue to raise awareness about the property's conservation value and promote sustainable livelihood alternatives, and also requests the State Party to continue these efforts, as well as those provisions outlined in the new Integrated Management Plan (IMP) 2022-2031specifically addressing community empowerment and participation;

5. Reiterating its concern on the continued water stress in the Lake Sibaya ecosystem, welcomes the decision to maintain a moratorium on issuing licenses for commercial forestry and encourages the State Party to take all possible steps to prevent further decline in water levels as identified in recent research studies;

6. Further requests the State Party to continue informing on the progress and implement the 2022 Panel of Experts' recommendations on the conservation of the St. Lucia Estuary, and ensure that the clearing of vegetation and dredging of the Msunduzi River and Beach Channel within the property followed the appropriate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

7. Notes with appreciation the State Party's recognition of the need to assess the cumulative impacts from the 20 planned tourism developments in the property, the need to complete carrying capacity studies as part of this assessment, and the State Party decision to ensure all proposals on greenfield sites are subjected to relevant EIA processes and requests furthermore that this decision should also include the proposals on brownfield sites to avoid any potential negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

8. Notes with concern the continued existence of licenses for offshore seismic surveying and hydrocarbon prospecting near the property, as well as threats posed by the potential expansion of the Richards Bay Minerals site towards the property's boundaries and the presence of illegal sand mining in the vicinity, and urges the State Party to ensure that these projects, should they go ahead in any capacity, be subject to an EIA conducted as per the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and reported to the World Heritage Committee and before any decision that would be difficult to reverse is made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Also urges the State Party to expedite the efforts underway for establishing a formal buffer zone for the property to guide land use and enforce protection of the OUV of the property, including consultation with the State Party of Mozambique given the proposed transboundary extension of the property, and submit the proposal through a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Finally requests 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.

52. Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.84**, **44 COM 7B.178** and **45 COM 7B.77**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the State Party for its continued efforts to combat poaching, particularly through enhanced cross-border collaboration with Zambia, and for the deployment of advanced digital tools such as drones and SMART monitoring systems, which have contributed to a decline in the poaching of elephants and other key species;

4. Encourages the State Party and its conservation partners to continue strengthening anti-poaching strategies, ensuring sustained monitoring, capacity-building, and resource allocation to address the root causes of poaching and ensure long-term protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

5. Welcomes the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Lower Zambezi-Mana Pools National Parks Transfrontier Conservation Area (LOZAMAP TFCA), which represent a significant milestone in fostering regional conservation cooperation, and requests the State Party (in collaboration with of the State Party of Zambia) to provide regular updates on the tangible conservation outcomes arising from this agreement;

6. Notes with concern the significant decline in African wild dog populations and critically low cheetah numbers, despite stable or slightly increasing lion and leopard populations, and also requests the State Party to investigate the possible causes of African wild dog population decline and to strengthen targeted conservation strategies for all species at risk;

7. Notes with appreciation the finalization and implementation of Management Plans (2023-2033) for individual components of the property, notes with concern the continued delay in finalizing a consolidated General Management Plan (GMP) for the property as a whole as requested since Decision **38 COM 7B.97** and urges the State Party to expedite the finalization of the consolidated GMP to ensure a coherent and strategic approach to the conservation and management of the property and to submit the finalized consolidated GMP to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN before its official approval;

8. Also welcomes the continued suspension of commercial hunting in the Sapi Safari Area and northern Chewore Safari Area as a precautionary measure for species recovery, further requests the State Party to assess its long-term effectiveness through scientific monitoring, and also encourages the State Party to formally designate the Hurungwe Safari Area and Dande Safari Area, as official buffer zone for the property and to implement monitoring mechanisms in these areas to monitor any ecological impacts of the hunting practices in these areas;

9. Notes with significant concern that no update has been provided regarding the copper and gold mining projects in the Lower Zambezi National Park (LZNP) and Chiawa Game Management Area (CGMA), which adjoin the property in Zambia, and requests furthermore the States Parties of Zimbabwe and Zambia to carefully document this issue and jointly provide an accurate and up-to-date report to the World Heritage Committee, in accordance with its previous decisions;

10. Requests moreover the State Party, in the framework of the signing of the MoU for the LOZAMAP TFCA, to continue working with the State Party of Zambia to provide updated information on all proposed mining projects in LZNP and CGMA, including any environmental assessments already conducted or planned, and to ensure that any potential impacts on the OUV are assessed in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

11. Note with utmost concern that an application for a licence to prospect for oil and natural gas potentially overlapping the property has been submitted to the Mining Affairs Board, recalls its clear position concerning the incompatibility of mining, oil and gas exploration and exploitation with World Heritage status and requests moreover the State Party to provide details of the status of this application and to ensure that it is not permitted to proceed within the property;

12. Notes the State Party's concerns over the impacts of the riverbank erosion on the integrity of the property, and further encourages the State Party to actively pursue other available or alternative financial and technical partnerships to address this matter and develop a long-term, science-based strategy for erosion control, climate adaptation, and integrated water resource management to prevent further degradation of critical habitats and park infrastructure;

13. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.5,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.100**, **43 COM 7B.1**, **44 COM 7B.88, 45 COM 7B.12** and **46 COM 7B.61**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Expresses its serious concern that ongoing political instability and economic crisis in Yemen continue to limit the effective protection and management of the property, calls upon the international community to provide increased support to the State Party to implement the priority management and conservation measures;
4. Welcomes the implementation of activities to control invasive alien species (IAS) including construction of a port quarantine facility that still needs to be equipped, airport and seaport monitoring, and preparation of an IAS strategy, and requests the State Party, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to ensure strict enforcement of regulations for both imports and exports, that officers have the necessary capacity and legal authority, and to secure the necessary funding to fully implement the IAS strategy and operationalise biosecurity measures and trade controls for the property;
5. Takes note of the progress towards finalising the Conservation Zoning Plan (CZP), the plans to develop a land use plan and a General Management Plan (GMP), and the designation and development of management plans for four protected areas in the property, and also requests the State Party to expedite the finalisation of the CZP, informing the land use plan and GMP, and ensuring consistency with the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review before their adoption;
6. Encourages the State Party to consider requesting international assistance from the World Heritage Fund to support the finalisation of the CZP and associated management planning, including for the preparation of the land use plan and the GMP;
7. While noting the measures to regulate activities in the property and its buffer zone, including the establishment of a new directive to prevent land reservation in protected areas, notes with serious concern the urban expansion and infrastructure development, including in sensitive areas and in violation of regulations, urges the State Party and all stakeholders involved in development projects to ensure that related impact assessments are implemented in line with the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, before making any irreversible decisions including to begin construction, and further requests the State Party to:

a) Expedite the assessment of infrastructure developed without Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and their potential impacts, as requested by the Committee, proposing follow up measures to mitigate any adverse impacts,

b) Strengthen environmental standards in the regulatory framework and their enforcement, and harmonise them with the updated CZP, land use plan, GMP and other management documents;

8. Recalling that grazing, marine exploitation, and fuelwood collection continue to exert pressure on the property, welcomes the ongoing Global Environment Facility/Food and Agriculture Organization (GEF-FAO) project focused on agriculture, livestock, and fisheries sectors, and encourages the State Party and the implementing partners to report on the activities, and share research findings and key results;

9. Notes the dismantling of the oil tanker stranded at Delisha Nature Sanctuary is underway, with some additional risks eliminated through removal of residual oil from the vessel, and requests furthermore the State Party to continue with the remedial actions and response as identified through the Emergency Assistance project, including with long-term contingency planning, in view of the potentially severe damage caused by oil spills in the property;

10. While acknowledging the State Party's commitment to protecting the property, despite its significantly limited capacity, reiterates its concern about the numerous threats facing the property, including uncontrolled development, unsustainable resource use, poaching, climate change, pollution, inadequate funding, and insufficient IAS controls, the cumulative impacts of which could represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property, and also encourages the State Party to develop a list of management priorities to secure a dedicated government conservation budget and to mobilise support from international partners to address these threats;

11. Further takes note that the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property was undertaken in May 2025, to assess the current state of conservation of the property, in particular in relation to the aforementioned threats, and to determine whether the property is still faced with threats which could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics, as defined in Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines and meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and that the mission findings will be reported to the next 48th session of the Committee;

12. 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, **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.**

MIXED PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.68**, **41 COM 7B.34**, **43 COM 7B.36**, **44 COM 7B.77**, **45 COM 7B.104** and **46 COM 7B.44**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Notes with utmost concern the ongoing degradation of attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as reaffirmed by the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission, and urges the States Parties to implement the mission's recommendations, as well as outstanding recommendations from the 2017 and 2020 missions;
4. Also urges the States Parties to continuously reinforce transboundary dialogue, at both high institutional and operational levels, to ensure effective and sustainable management;
5. Regrets the lack of reported progress in preparing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to define the cumulative impacts on the property's OUV, and reiterates its request to the States Parties to urgently prepare a SEA that comprehensively assesses the cumulative impacts of all infrastructure and development plans, and other major projects on the property's OUV and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party of Albania to upgrade the status of the Strategic Recovery Plan (SRP), including through clear and reinforced governance, and to promptly implement urgent measures to address existing threats to the OUV and improve the overall state of conservation of the property;
7. Notes with concern the construction of a five-storey complex in Tushemisht and the retention of development zones near Tushemisht, Drilon Springs, and Lin Peninsula without appropriate impact assessments, and also reiterates its request to the State Party of Albania to:
    a) Revise and downscale the Tushemisht development in accordance with the OUV conservation requirements,
    b) Amend the Pogradec General Local Plan to exclude urbanisation possibilities in ecologically sensitive areas, including those between Tushemisht and Drilon Springs and on Lin Peninsula,
    c) Strictly enforce regulatory measures protecting the property's OUV;
8. Requests moreover the State Party of Albania to halt further development on the Drilon–Tushemisht Waterscape project and the Pogradec bypass road until the revised impact assessments, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including cumulative impacts, are completed and submitted for review, in line with the 2024 mission's recommendations;

9. Further reiterates its request to the State Party of North Macedonia that:

   a) Amendments to Detailed Urban Plans and approval of Local Development Plans outside settlements be suspended until the SEA is carried out and demonstrates no adverse effects on the attributes underlying the property's OUV,

   b) The General Urban Plans for Ohrid and Struga as well as the spatial planning instruments for non-built-up areas, be elaborated as a matter of urgency and fully respect the attributes underlying the property's OUV,

   c) A systematic assessment, based on clear criteria, of the negative impacts of illegal buildings be conducted, with decisions taken to eliminate or mitigate adverse effects, including removal of illegal constructions or parts thereof,

   d) The feasibility study for planning of the coastal zone of Lake Ohrid located in the Republic of North Macedonia, part of the mixed transboundary World Heritage property 'Natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid Region' be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

10. Requests furthermore the State Party of North Macedonia to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the pre-feasibility for the alternative route of the Railway Corridor VIII, the detailed studies and assessments for the Corridor VIII Highway routing options, and associated impact assessments for individual projects, prior to any irreversible decisions, and to suspend any development activities within the project areas until such assessments are completed and reviewed;

11. Also urges the State Party of North Macedonia to improve conservation of Studenčišča Marsh, and reiterates its request to:

   a) Immediately halt construction activities near Studenčišča Marsh and the Gorica 3 complex until the above-mentioned SEA and project-specific impact assessments are completed,

   b) Revise the proposed draft law for the proclamation of the nature park to ensure alignment with the conservation of the property's OUV, consistent with relevant IUCN standards and mission findings;

12. Appreciates positive conservation actions in Galičica National Park, including reduced extractive use and enhanced stakeholder cooperation and requests the State Party of North Macedonia to:

   a) Complete the revision of zoning policies to achieve the objective of allowing natural processes to occur across 75% of the Park,

   b) Finalise and implement a visitor management plan,

   c) Enhance ranger authority and enforcement capacity,

   d) Implement strict regulations and enforcement to prevent illegal off-road vehicle use, and gradually phase out such activities in the Park;

13. Acknowledges the near completion of the Sateska River redirection, and further urges the State Party of North Macedonia to ensure full compliance with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards, as recommended by the 2024 mission;

14. Notes with appreciation ongoing wastewater infrastructure upgrades and expanded monitoring efforts by both States Parties, but expresses concern over the slow pace of implementation, and requests furthermore urgent, coordinated action to address pollution hotspots, notably at Grashnica and Radozda in North Macedonia;

15. Takes note of the proposed new landfill in Novaci and the planned closure of the Bukovo site, and requests moreover the State Party of North Macedonia to inform the World

Heritage Centre prior to final decisions concerning waste transfer stations in the Ohrid Region;

16. Also notes with utmost concern that the 2024 mission confirms previous missions' findings, concluding that cumulative and ongoing impacts – including urban development, spatial planning deficiencies, inappropriate interventions, eutrophication of the lake, large-scale infrastructure, and other projects – have caused serious deterioration of the key attributes conveying the property's OUV, resulting in irreversible degradation unless decisive action is taken, and considers that the conditions for the property's inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger are met, in accordance with paragraphs 179-180 of the Operational Guidelines;

17. Also requests the States Parties, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a set of corrective measures, including a timeframe for their implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session in 2026, **considering that the urgent need of conservation of the property requires a broad mobilization so as to preserve the OUV, including the possibility of including the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger** at its 48th session, and to proceed to urgently implement, in an effective manner, all necessary corrective measures based on the recommendations of the 2020 and 2024 missions and the Strategic Recovery Plan, adopted by both countries;

18. Finally requests the States Parties 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.

55. Laponian Area (Sweden)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.5,

2. Recalling Decision **CONF 201 VIII.B**, adopted at its 20th session (Merida, 1996), by which the Committee recommended that the Swedish authorities continue to work with local Sámi people, Decision **37 COM 7 (Part III)** adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), which urged all States Parties and leading industry stakeholders to respect the International Council on Mining and Metals "No-go" commitment by not permitting extractive activities within World Heritage properties and by making every effort to ensure that extractive companies located in their territory cause no damage to World Heritage properties, in accordance with Article 6 of the Convention, and Decisions **45 COM 7B.32** and **46 COM 7B.45**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th session (New Delhi, 2024) respectively,

3. Takes note of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission, and expresses its sincere appreciation to the Swedish authorities for their financial support of the Mission;

4. Notes with significant concern that the Mission considered that the proposed Kallak mining project, which would be located near the property within a critical reindeer migration corridor, poses a significant threat to the cultural and natural values of the property, in particular in relation to the Sámi reindeer transhumance system, which is a key attribute of the OUV of the property, considers that mitigation measures would be insufficient to counteract the substantial overall negative impacts on the property's OUV,

and thus urges the State Party not to grant an Environmental Permit for the project, as its approval would cause irreversible damage to the property's OUV;

5. Notes with concern the information provided to the Mission indicating that the impact assessment for the proposed mining project, commissioned by the mining company, would focus on defining mitigation measures, and takes note of the State Party's subsequent commitment to submit an impact assessment prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to any decision on the approval of the Environmental Permit required for mining to proceed;

6. Also notes the mission's findings that protection of migration corridors and winter grazing areas in the immediate setting of the property boundaries is inadequate, and strongly encourages the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification to establish a buffer zone explicitly linked to the property's OUV, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Notes furthermore that, to ensure the long-term sustainability of Sámi reindeer transhumance, a more strategic and integrated conservation approach is urgently required; and encourages the State Party to develop a Sustainable Development Strategy for the property and its setting, in full consultation with the concerned Sámi Indigenous Peoples, to better align heritage conservation and management with sustainable development goals while safeguarding the property's OUV and recognising the interrelationship between culture and nature as fundamental to community well-being; and to submit a draft Strategy to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Expresses concern over the numerous past and new development projects within the setting of the property, including the granting of an Exploration Concession by the Mining Inspectorate of Sweden for test drilling in Allivaara, and moreover requests the State Party to:

   a) Undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the property to assess the cumulative impact of all major development projects on the OUV of the property;

   b) Ensure all planned developments are assessed for their potential impacts on the property's OUV through a Heritage/Environmental Impact Assessment, based on a detailed delineation of the attributes underpinning the property's OUV;

   c) Submit these assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken;

9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any further consideration of mining permits guarantees the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Sámi Indigenous Peoples, and to integrate FPIC procedures into decision-making processes concerning all future major infrastructure and industrial projects, in accordance with international standards, including the Convention;

10. Further welcomes the Swedish Government's initiative to commission the Swedish Agency for Public Management to review existing protection and management measures to ensure the sustainable and long-term conservation of the property, and calls upon the State Party to continue clarifying legal protection measures and governance responsibilities for safeguarding the property's OUV, and to ensure its alignment with national legislation, as well as international obligations under the Convention and human rights standards;

11. Also requests the State Party to update and revise the management plan in accordance with the Mission's recommendations to address identified gaps, and further requests the State Party that the draft management plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption,

12. Further requests the State Party to address all other recommendations of the Mission;

13. 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.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.78**, **45COM7B.99 and 46COM7B.46**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Takes note of the submission of a state of conservation report jointly prepared by the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) and the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP);

4. Takes note of the actions taken by INAH in the framework of the Programme for the Improvement of Archaeological Areas (PROMEZA) to conserve the archaeological heritage and to prepare the property for increased numbers of visitors as a result of the Tren Maya project;

5. Notes with utmost concern that major infrastructural works, such as the Tren Maya Tramo 7, Calakmul train station, the Calakmul Site Museum and a new Visitor Services Centre (CATVI), have been completed, deeply regrets that the State Party did not submit the corresponding impact assessments of these projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and that it remains unclear whether any potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property was adequately considered and avoided, and therefore requests the State Party to urgently undertake and submit an action plan for the implementation of mitigation measures for each of the projects;

6. Also regrets that the State Party has not undertaken the requested Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to evaluate the strategic alignment and cumulative impacts of the Tren Maya project and other related developments, whilst multiple development projects are advancing, and urges the State Party to prioritize undertaking the SEA in line with the principles of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Also notes with appreciation that the boundaries of the protected areas are now harmonized with those of the property, following a consultation process with local and indigenous communities;

8. Further notes with concern that visitation to the property has significantly increased and is expected to further increase, without the necessary prior studies to assess all cumulative impacts, and therefore also requests the State Party to submit the updated

management programme and carrying capacity proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any final decisions are made;

9. Notes furthermore with concern that a major new hotel is being planned to be located within the boundaries of the World Heritage property and further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, an Environmental Impact Assessment of this project, and not to give final approval for the hotel construction before this review process is completed;

10. Welcomes the invitation by the State Party for a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as requested in its Decision **46 COM 7B.46**, and requests that the Terms of Reference of the mission reflect the abovementioned concerns, the ICOMOS and IUCN Technical Review recommendations, and an assessment of the status of the various infrastructural works that concern the OUV of the property;

11. Appreciates the reports on the implementation of the PROMEZA programme at the World Heritage properties of Pre-Hispanic City and National Park of Palenque, Pre-Hispanic City of Chichen-Itza, Pre-Hispanic Town of Uxmal and Historic Fortified Town of Campeche, and regrets that the Committee was not requested to provide advice on this programme before its implementation;

12. 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.

57. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.35**, **39 COM 7B.36**, **41 COM 7B.36**, **43 COM 7B.37**, **44 COM 7B.172** and **45 COM 7B.100,** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the advances in managing and controlling the visitor flow, as well as in the conservation and monitoring measures applied at the Llaqta and at the access routes of Machu Picchu, but expresses its concern that the current daily visitor admission levels exceed those approved under the 2015 carrying capacity study, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre information on further progress of the visitor flow policy, and a technical assessment demonstrating compliance with the conditions to increase visitation, including effective implementation of dispersal strategies, infrastructure adaptation, independent monitoring, and adequate staffing;

4. Notes the advances in the process of updating the Master Plan, which will include the Public Use Plan and new Zoning Regulations, and the elaboration and consolidation of the Regulations for Sustainable Tourism Visits to the Llaqta of Machu Picchu and urges the State Party to finalise these processes and to submit the documents to the World Heritage Centre once completed for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Also welcomes the approval of Law No. 31770, which incorporates into the national legislation the obligation to conduct a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for any major projects within or adjacent to World Heritage properties, and recalls that any project that

might affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of a property has to be subject of a proper assessment under the obligations of the Convention and the Operational Guidelines, and in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

6. Further welcomes the finalization of the HIA of the Chinchero International Airport – Cusco and the fact that Law No. 31770 also established that compensation and mitigation measures shall be fully assumed by the owner of the investment project, and requests the State Party to finalise the Action Plan detailing the mitigation measures and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies prior to the start of airport operations;

7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any major infrastructure transport projects, such as airports, railways, cable cars, tunnels and roads, are rigorously assessed, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and encourages again the State Party to develop land use plans for the areas surrounding the property prior to the expected increase of tourism pressure caused by the construction of the Chinchero International Airport;

8. Regrets that no update was provided on the Visitor Centre and its HIA, and reiterates again its request to finalize the HIA, through a consultative process involving relevant rights holders and stakeholders such as the local communities, and in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

9. Also expresses its concern about reported governance challenges within the Machu Picchu Management Unit, and the loss of direct financial retention mechanisms at the site level, further reiterates the importance of ensuring sufficient autonomy and flexible financial resources for the effective management and conservation of the property; and requests furthermore the State Party to submit a report on this to the World Heritage Centre;

10. Takes note that the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERNANP) and the Machu Picchu District Municipality have established a Technical Committee for Rural Land Use Planning in the Machu Picchu District to address the reported increase in-site invasion incidents, looting, and illegal land-use changes, and requests the State Party to elaborate a report on the decisions made, including information on mitigating actions taken or planned, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

11. Notes with regret that no further progress towards a proposal for a Machu Picchu-Choquequirao Biosphere Reserve was reported, and also encourages the State Party to continue this process;

12. 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.

AFRICA

58. Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho, South Africa)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.170**, **45 COM 7B.101** and **46 COM 8B.32**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the reaffirmed commitment of the State Party of South Africa to complete the required Environmental Impact Assessments for the proposed cableway and oil and gas exploration before any decisions are taken, takes note that the latter proposal may be located in the newly designated buffer zone of the property as approved by the Committee (Decision **46 COM 8B.32**), and therefore requests the State Party to monitor its status and submit a report to the World Heritage Centre for consideration;
4. Also takes note of the map and details regarding delineation and protection of the eastern buffer zone of the property located in the territory of the State Party of South Africa;
5. Also welcomes the mitigation measures implemented during the operational phase of the petrol filling station in the buffer zone of the property to reduce visual impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and also requests the State Party of South Africa to ensure consistent monitoring and adaptation of these measures as necessary;
6. Further takes note of the outcomes of the Conservation, Monitoring, and Risk Assessment of Rock Art in Sehlabathebe National Park project, acknowledges the progress made by the States Parties in revising the Joint Management Committee agreement as a prelude to updating the Joint Management Plan (JMP) to incorporate findings from the project, and urges the States Parties to finalize and submit as soon as possible the revised JMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, to ensure effective harmonization of management systems for the property;
7. Further welcomes the proactive measures implemented by the State Party of Lesotho to mitigate risks to rock art sites, including restricting unguided tours, controlling visitor numbers, and introducing virtual interpretation, and encourages continued implementation of these measures to safeguard the property's attributes;
8. Notes with regret the delay in the legislative process for the Biodiversity Resources Management Bill, and reiterates again its request to the State Party of Lesotho to expedite its adoption to strengthen legal frameworks for conservation within the property and to submit a copy to the World Heritage Centre;
9. Welcomes furthermore the measures undertaken by the State Party of South Africa in response to the fire that affected the sections of the rock art at the Main Caves, and, takes note of the reported damages caused to these sections, the destabilization of the rock art panels due to the wildfire, and that the consequence of the wildfire was exacerbated by the use of timber for visitor infrastructure, and further requests that:
    a) The State Party of South Africa:
        (i) urgently develop and implement emergency stabilization measures to safeguard the destabilised panels,

(ii) develop a long-term preservation and restoration strategy for the Main Cave rock art site, and submit this as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,

(iii) undertake a thorough risk assessment of all major identified rock art sites in the components of the property located in its territory and develop a Risk Management Plan for these sites, aligned with the management tools for rock art conservation already developed by the State Party of Lesotho, and submit this as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,

b) The States Parties jointly develop a strategic standard design for visitor access infrastructure to rock art sites for the entire property, with a focus on risk mitigation, and submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementing further visitor access infrastructure at rock art sites in the property;

10. Finally requests the State Parties 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling **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, strongly condemns the deliberate acts of destruction of cultural heritage within and in the wider context of the property perpetrated by armed groups and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action likely to cause damage to the property;
5. Congratulates 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 strongly encourages the State Party to maintain this dynamic of resilience;
6. Thanks 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, also congratulates the State Party, and in particular all the actors in the local communities, on the achievements of this project, and requests the State Party to report on these achievements in more detail in its next report;
7. Thanks 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 encourages the State Party to continue these efforts to mobilise resources for initiatives to safeguard the property;

8. Notes with appreciation 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 also asks 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. Takes note 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 requests furthermore 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. Reiterates its appeal 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. Also reiterates its request 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. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.171**, **45 COM 7B.30** and **46 COM 7B.48**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively;

3. Considers that the involvement of stakeholders and rightsholders remains essential in all aspects of the implementation of the Multiple Land Use Model (MLUM), including its review, challenges to be addressed, and subsequent implementation strategy;

4. Also recalling that the 2020 Review of the MLUM management system states that maintaining a MLUM has “more advantages economically, socially, culturally, politically

and internally than the one that advocates for changing NCA to other protected area category" [NCA: Ngorongoro Conservation Area],

5. Reiterates its view that the continued implementation of a MLUM, developed in consultation with all stakeholders and rightsholders, and which ensures a clear human rights based approach, is appropriate in principle, and further considers that it is essential that there is full engagement, including effective and adequate consultation with all relevant stakeholders and rightsholders, including those who oppose relocation, in relation to the development of the General Management Plan (GMP) and the implementation strategy going forward following the review of the MLUM;

6. Recalls that further in-person and on-site engagement with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies is required to ensure that the views and concerns of all local communities and stakeholders on the outcome of the MLUM review and the voluntary resettlement scheme are adequately heard;

7. Welcomes the State Party's positive response to the request of the Committee for a new joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and requests the State Party to invite the mission to the property at the earliest opportunity, as per the present and previous Committee decisions;

8. Reiterates its request to the State Party to fully implement the 2017 mission recommendations concerning the Lodoare Gate to Golini main road through the property and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the action plan to manage road use, and the results of archaeological investigations and baseline ecological and environmental data before starting the upgrading works;

9. Notes that the GMP for the property remains in development, and also requests the State Party to finalise the GMP as soon as possible in line with previous decisions;

10. Also notes that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) remains underway, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure the timely delivery of the SEA in order to evaluate the current and future impacts of developments across all sectors in the region, including the property and the wider Serengeti ecosystem so that the findings can inform management, and submit the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review;

11. Also takes note of the update on the implementation of the 2017 Advisory and 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations and previous Committee decisions, and further requests the State Party to provide a full update on the action plan for the implementation of mission recommendations, to provide an update on activities related to poaching and managing invasive alien species, and to ensure that all pending matters be addressed;

12. Requests furthermore that the State Party complete the various tourism related measures including development of a tourism interpretation strategy and integrated guidelines on the tourism carrying capacity and monitoring framework for the property;

13. Further reiterates its request to implement the recommendation of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to Serengeti National Park World Heritage property on the southern bypass road to downgrade the status of the Karatu – Nyamusa road as a trunk road to a protected area road, closing it for heavy transit traffic from Arusha to Musoma and by disincentivizing other vehicle transit traffic, and to fully implement the 2017 Advisory mission recommendations concerning the upgrading of the Lodoare Gate to Golini main road through the property;

14. Noting that plans for the translocation of southern white rhino into the property continue and that progress will be reported, and reiterates its request furthermore not to proceed with the introduction without addressing the concerns raised by the IUCN Species Survival Commission African Rhino Specialist Group (AfrRSG);

15. Also welcomes the initiation of a landscape study at Laetoli which will investigate ecological, archaeological and historic features, and invites the State Party to share its outcomes with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

16. Expresses its concern that a temporary enclosure and climate control trials have commenced at the Laetoli footprint site G, and requests furthermore that the State Party:

    a) Submit, as soon as possible further details and an update on outcomes of the experimental project at site G to the World Heritage Centre,

    b) Engage the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the evaluation of further conservation actions before any decisions are made on the conservation, and presentation of the footprints at the site;

17. 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.

ARAB STATES

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.73**, **45 COM 7B.31** and **46 COM 7B.49**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the progress on updating the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property, and requests the State Party to finalise the IMP and updated management plans for each component, as a matter of priority, in full consultation with stakeholders including local communities, prioritizing conservation of vulnerable archaeological remains at Ur, Uruk and Eridu, and informed by the assessment of threats and factors related to the natural values of the property, and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

4. Notes with significant concern that water scarcity in the property has continued for a fifth consecutive year, and recalls again that significant fluctuations in water flows may pose a major threat to the property and non-fulfilment of minimum water requirements could represent a potential danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Welcomes that measures continue to be implemented to mitigate water scarcity within the property, and expresses its appreciation that such measures have secured a sufficient water supply to the marshes compared to previous years, and also requests the State Party to:

    a) Continue to urgently implement management measures that demonstrate that adequate flows to the property are ensured in the short and long-term as a matter of utmost priority,

b) Complete the update of the Strategic Study for Water and Land Resources (SSWLR), which will address the needs of the natural components of the property, among all sectors considered in this study, and set the necessary water quota to sustain the property's OUV, and to submit the parts of the study pertaining to the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,

c) Ensure that the previously requested basin-wide Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in line with the principles of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

6. Also notes with appreciation that transboundary cooperation with States Parties located upstream of the property is continuing in relation to ensuring water security for the property, and further requests the State Party to continue these efforts towards ensuring long-term sustainable transboundary water management measures, and that transboundary cooperation remains a matter of priority to ensure effective water management that is informed by science and can guarantee minimum water supplies to sustain the OUV of the property;

7. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to organise a technical meeting with the State Party and other relevant stakeholders to consider how the OUV of the property may be safeguarded through sustained waterflow and transboundary collaboration, building on the ongoing transboundary technical cooperation with the States Parties located upstream of the property;

8. Recalls the commitment of the State Party to ensure legal protection for the marshland components within its national legal framework, and also takes note of various measures to address illegal fishing, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide an update on the amendments to the Wildlife Protection Law to ensure broader effective protection of the property, and to continue strengthening its monitoring, legal protection, enforcement and management capacity to control illegal activities such as bird hunting and overfishing;

9. Also recalling its significant concern over the continued vulnerability of the marsh components and the related natural values of the property to oil and gas developments, also welcomes the State Party's continued commitment to ensure that oil activities outside the property do not damage the property;

10. Notes with utmost concern, however, the third-party reports of oil exploration within the Huwaizah marshes component of the property, also recalls that extractive activities are incompatible with World Heritage status, and urges the State Party to provide clarification on this as a matter of priority, and to not proceed with any such activity;

11. Notes with concern that the location of various oil activities in relation to the boundaries remains unclear, and that the State Party report on the assessments of threats to the natural values identifies oil infrastructure as a threat, and therefore requests the State Party to ensure that the protection of the property from extractive activities is reflected in the update of IMP, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to:

a) Ensure that any proposed extractive activities that may impact on the OUV are assessed for their potential impacts in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, prior to taking any decisions to approve such projects, and not to approve any project that would have an adverse impact on the OUV,

b) Continue monitoring existing extractive activities in the vicinity of the property, report on any potential or actual impacts on OUV as previously requested, and immediately address any negative impacts and undertake remediation activities as required,

c) Provide an overview of oil and gas developments in the vicinity of the property, including the assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,

d) Extend its commitment to a permanent ban on all extractive industries within the property, including gas, and ensuring no negative impacts on the OUV from activities beyond the boundaries;

12. Further takes note of the efforts underway to develop an overall tourism management plan (TMP) for the property and that the tourism project in Al-Chibayish has been halted, and requests moreover the State Party to provide an update on the draft guidelines for regulating eco-tourism in the marshland components and to finalise the TMP for the property;

13. Further welcomes the ongoing activities to engage with local communities in management issues, and also encourages the State Party to continue engagement, in order to ensure the full and effective participation of the local communities in the governance and management of the property, including matters concerning hunting and fishing, water usage, rights-based approaches to management and for the application of traditional ecological knowledge to any planned new constructions;

14. Further considers that a new Reactive Monitoring mission in 2027 would allow the assessment of progress achieved towards implementing the above, including to re-evaluate whether the property then meets the criteria for its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

15. Finally requests 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.

62. Wadi Rum Protected Area (Jordan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.102** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Notes with appreciation 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 takes note that the State Party will prepare and submit to the World Heritage Centre a Minor Boundary Modification proposal in 2025;

4. Also notes with appreciation 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 also requests the State Party to submit the final report to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Further notes with appreciation 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, encourages 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. Also takes notes that the three pilot sanitation units are operational and showing promising results, and encourages 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. Further notes with appreciation 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. Further takes note 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 further requests 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. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.152** and **46 COM 7B.31**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Acknowledges the State Party's report on major issues, including recent information on the population relocation programme, framed within the historical context and founded on legally established zoning management scheme for the property,

4. Notes the conclusions of the joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission of December 2024, which confirm that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is sustained despite multiple pressures, and that it is supported by the technical expertise of the National Authority (APSARA), including the systematic rehabilitation of the previously occupied locations with landscaping that

supports the attributes of the property's OUV, on-going efforts in the rehabilitation of the ancient hydraulic systems, and other projects which benefit local communities and contribute to sustainable development;

5. Notes the conclusions of the 2024 Reactive monitoring mission regarding the relocation programme from the inscribed areas to new townships, and requests the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations, and in particular to:

   a) Continue providing incentives to legal residents and illegal occupants to accept voluntary relocation, to improve their living conditions and to help sustain the attributes which support the OUV of the property,

   b) Continue to adhere strictly to international human rights standards for the relocation process, notably by systematically implementing a well-established procedure, through written, traceable and trackable documentation, while also strengthening formal conflict resolution mechanisms,

   c) Undertake a socio-economic study of the living populations within the property to inform social policies and promote further research and projects relating to them, to increase the awareness of all stakeholders regarding their well-being and their role in conserving the property and its OUV,

   d) Enhance the living conditions of people who have been resettled in relocation towns by conducting regular socio-economic assessments to inform policies that optimise job opportunities and capacity development,

   e) Maintain the current zoning and related regulations for the property and consider potential modifications to the land occupation and use within the inscribed zones with caution, in consultation with the APSARA, national and provincial stakeholders, and the International Coordinating Committee for the Safeguarding and Development of the Historic Sites of Angkor and Sambor Prei Kuk (ICC-Angkor/Sambor Prei Kuk), and, if changes are proposed, submit the proposal with related Heritage Impact Assessment for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,

   f) Reinforce proactive measures to prevent new settlements and unlawful transfer of land occupation titles, including through communication to national and local populations,

   g) Continue strengthening APSARA in the areas of land management, community engagement, legal advice, social assistance, conflict mediation and communication, with the provision of consequent financial and human resources, to enhance its mission of World Heritage preservation and foster greater benefit sharing with the communities,

6. Welcomes the clarifications provided by the State Party regarding the relationship between tourism and management documents, along with initiatives to manage the property's carrying capacity, and requests the State Party to submit the proposed update of the Tourism Management Plan for the property for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before it is finalised;

7. Encourages the State Party's efforts to manage the increasing populations of macaques within the property, to prevent them from damaging archaeological structures and hurting visitors, while continuing to protect them from mistreatment;

8. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party concerning the establishment of a consultative process aimed at improving land management, housing, construction, and livelihoods;

9. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.153** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the continued efforts made by the State Party to conserve and protect the property, and strengthen its management, expresses its appreciation to the State Party for having invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property and encourages the State Party to continue implementing the mission recommendations, including those aimed at ensuring compliance of the property with the Operational Guidelines;
4. Takes note of the Advisory mission's finding that, overall, the Yuzhen Palace uplift project has limited impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), however, requests that more on-site explanation of the project's impact and additional information on the archaeological sites in particular are included within the heritage interpretation;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, following the technical requirements outlined in the 2023 Advisory mission report:
    a) Detailed boundary clarification maps for each of the 45 component parts of the property by **1 December 2025**,
    b) A Minor Boundary Modification request, following the prescribed format (Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines) by **1 February 2027**, for the delineation of a unifying buffer zone which encompasses the immediate and part of the wider landscape setting of the property, guided by further work on the clear identification of the attributes of OUV, in order to reflect the way the ensemble of buildings was created overtime to become a single complex, linked by sacred pathways, within a single sacred mountain setting;
6. Notes with appreciation various measures being introduced to enhance visitor control at the property, and further requests more details on how the real-time visitor control system at the monitoring centre is being implemented, how the receptors are installed and how it operates in each component part, with information on the type of response measures to be activated once the threshold of visitor numbers is reached;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to update the management plan for the property including a plan that guides the further opening up of the remaining component parts to visitors, following the boundary clarification and approval of a buffer zone, and to ensure the integration of the updated elements in other relevant legislation including a subsequent Master Plan for the Wudang Mountains Scenic Area, in line with the Advisory mission recommendation;
8. Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of any proposed actions, including major restorations, that may negatively impact the property's OUV, before any irreversible decisions are made, and to undertake impact assessments in accordance with Paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and taking into full account the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

9. Finally requests 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.

65. Historic Centre of Macao (China)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.154** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) session,
3. Appreciates continued efforts by the State Party and the Macao Special Administrative Region Government supporting heritage conservation, monitoring, interpretation and presentation of the property;
4. Regrets that the final draft of the Administrative Regulation No. 4/2024 – Protection and Management Plan of the Historic Centre of Macao (Management Plan) for the property was not shared with the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption and implementation as requested by the Committee, but welcomes that the Management Plan was finalized in line with the technical advice of ICOMOS, providing a holistic framework and effective tool for the conservation and management of the property, and notes that the final Management Plan is subject to technical review by ICOMOS;
5. Also welcomes that the Management Plan provides a legal basis for conducting Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and requests the State Party to continue informing the World Heritage Centre of any proposed actions in the property, its buffer zones and wider setting that may negatively impact attributes which support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Also notes that the building project at 18-20 Calçada de Gaio with modified design has been approved, and also requests the State Party to submit the HIA and Urban Design Study of the area around Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues to the World Heritage Centre for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Further requests that the State Party submit key management and planning documents including the Detailed Urban Development Plan for the Eastern District 2, incorporating the New Urban Zone Area A, and the Urban Planning Study of the New Urban Zone B, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Takes note of information provided on the Light Rail Transit (LRT) East Line project (connecting the New Urban Zone Areas A and E), which is under construction, but nevertheless requests furthermore the State Party to submit detailed documentation, including the HIA for the project, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Also takes note of the planned flyover ('A-B Bridge') project (connecting the New Urban Zone Areas A and B), requests moreover the State Party to undertake a comprehensive HIA following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit the HIA and detailed project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any irreversible decisions about the project;

10. Finally requests 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 Advisory Bodies.

66. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.155** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes the conclusions of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) prepared for the pavilions erected close to the Jokhang Temple Monastery to protect three historic stelae, and requests the State Party to submit full details of the proposed rectification works to mitigate visual impacts of the pavilions to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before works commence;
4. Also notes the submission of the conservation plans for the three component parts of the property which were completed in 2023, which will be subject to Technical Review by ICOMOS;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit up to date maps of the property and the buffer zones as inscribed;
6. Welcomes the establishment of preliminary minor boundary modifications for the buffer zone of the Norbulingka component part, which are delineated by existing roads and consistent with the conservation plan for Norbulingka, and further requests the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification request in conformity with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Further notes the reports provided on the dismantled TV tower at the Chakpori Hill, improvements to monitoring and early warning systems at the three component parts of the property, and the efficacy of the new visitation management measures, commends the efforts of the State Party to manage visitation at the property and encourages the State Party to ensure that the Jokhang Temple plaza continues to be managed in a manner which facilitates respectful pilgrim visitation;
8. Also welcomes the report on implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;
9. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.5**, **44 COM 7B.22** and **45 COM 7B.156**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the ongoing secretarial support provided by the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an (IICC-X), the special exhibition “Departing from Chang'an: A Thematic Exhibition Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Silk Roads Inscription”, the advice of the States Parties regarding the statutory protection afforded to the component parts of the property, and the progress reported with monitoring, presentation, training, and stakeholder outreach directed at protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

4. Noting the updates provided on the preparation of management plans for the component parts of the property provided by the States Parties of China and Kazakhstan, reiterates its previous requests that outstanding management plans be finalized as a matter of priority, taking into consideration the outcomes of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission, and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Also noting the information provided by the States Parties regarding visitation during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, again encourages the States Parties to review and re-assess the carrying capacities at all component parts in light of the post-pandemic health and safety regulations, and to submit the results of this reassessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Further noting the information provided by the State Party of Kazakhstan regarding the revised route of the Birlik-Akbulak highway and bridge, and that the works were completed prior to submission of more detailed plans, requests the State Party of Kazakhstan to provide clarification regarding the location of the new bridge and road in relation to the northern edge of the buffer zone of this component part of the property;

7. Also reiterates its previous requests to the State Party of Kazakhstan to establish a World Heritage Steering Committee for its component parts, to provide information concerning roads management for the component parts of Akyrtas, Kostobe, and for the adjusted route of the A3 Ust-Kamenogorsk-Almaty road, and to continue developing effective co-ordination with the States Parties of China and Kyrgyzstan for the management of the property through the existing agreements and management mechanisms;

8. Takes note of the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) submitted by the State Party of China for the integrated rural sewage treatment project and special education school proposed within the buffer zone of the Weiyang Palace in Chang’an City of the Western Han Dynasty, which will be subject to technical review by ICOMOS;

9. Takes note with concern that development issues in the buffer zones of the Ak-Beshim and Krasnaya Rechka settlements remain unresolved and further reiterates its previous request to the State Party of Kyrgyzstan to continue efforts to ensure that attributes which support the OUV of the property are not impacted by development;

10. Noting receipt of cadastral maps for the Chinese component parts of the property, reiterates furthermore its previous request to the States Parties of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to ensure that:

    a) The boundaries and buffer zones of all inscribed component parts are duly documented in cadastral maps and that these maps are submitted to the World Heritage Centre,

    b) All three States Parties ensure that the component parts of the property are appropriately identified in local regulatory documents and that the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape is implemented as a tool for integrating heritage protection with development plans and processes for the cities and settlements in the property;

11. Also welcomes the collaboration with the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) by the State Party of China, and reiterates moreover its previous request that all concerned partners work closely with the HIST and the International Institute for Central Asian Studies to use space technology applications to monitor the state of conservation of the entirety of the property;

12. Finally requests 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.

68. Group of Monuments at Hampi (India)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. 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. Notes that the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), requested repeatedly by the Committee, was finally submitted, regrets that the IMP was not submitted and implemented on time and urges 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 submit 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:

   a) 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 requests the State Party to put on hold the implementation of these projects pending completion of this review process;

7. Underlines the importance of supporting livelihood of local communities (29 villages) which lie within the property, requests 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. Also requests 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. 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.

69. Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.25** and **45 COM 7B.158**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the extensive conservation work undertaken at the various components of the property, and encourages further conservation work to be implemented at Ranthambhore Fort, and the staffing of Gagron Fort to be augmented;

4. Also notes that some recent conservation work may have included the reconstruction of built fabric, and recalls the provisions of Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines that provides guidance on reconstruction in relation to authenticity;

5. Also welcomes the completion of a photogrammetric survey of Jaisalmer Fort and its buffer zone, which will aid in the management of the urban development of this component, but further notes that the lack of a complete ownership register of individual buildings and land plots in this component and its buffer zone remains a hurdle to the management of development pressure, and requests that the State Party implement a programme to develop such an ownership register;

6. Reiterates its request that the State Party to submit the detailed information together with a timeline of the annual conservation plan as well as the five-year action plan for Jaisalmer Fort to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Regrets that the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority has not yet been established, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to report on progress concerning the

resourcing and implementation of the planned actions, including the following high-priority matters:

a) The finalization of the establishment of the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority, and details about its legal and operational purview and its priority activities,

b) The establishment of the Site Management Plan for Jaisalmer Fort under the Town and Country Planning Act, and continuing efforts to clarify the ownership of buildings within the property,

c) The development of a sub-plan for visitor management for Jaisalmer Fort, which should be a high-priority activity as an essential part of the property's management system,

d) The development of the sub-plan for risk preparedness for Jaisalmer Fort,

e) The development of the sub-plan for livelihood generation for the local population, considering the need for capacity building,

f) Further development of the comprehensive Conservation Plan, considering the Technical Review and feedback to be provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies following the submission of the five-year conservation action plan for Jaisalmer Fort,

8. Notes moreover that the National Monument Authority has commenced developing a heritage byelaw for the Jaisalmer Fort component and that this process will be extended to the other components, and also requests that these byelaws be specifically designed to also ensure detailed and action-oriented monitoring of the condition of the World Heritage property, based on a clear articulation of its Outstanding Universal Value and attributes;

9. Finally requests 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.

70. Historic City of Ahmadabad (India)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 8B.17** and **45 COM 7B.159**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively;

3. Welcomes the continued documentation of historic pol houses in the property through dedicated specialist teams, and encourages the State Party to continue and expedite this process;

4. Notes that the draft Heritage Conservation Plan (HCP) is under revision to consider the outcomes of the ICOMOS Technical Review, and requests that the State Party finalise the revision of the HCP as soon as possible and submit the revised document to the World Heritage Centre for review;

5. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the ICOMOS Technical Review on the 2022 Urban Design Guidelines prior to formalising their implementation, considers that resubmission for review of the revised

Urban Design Guidelines should be done before any additional street improvement projects are further developed or implemented;

6. Also notes that the Danapith Fire station project was reduced in height by three metres, but that this reduction will not fully mitigate its negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, which is in part because it would also further stimulate the use of motorised traffic inside the property, reiterates its requests to the State Party to implement the recommendations contained in the ICOMOS Technical Review on the Danapith Fire station project, and also requests that the State Party urgently provide a status update of the project to the World Heritage Centre;

7. Considers that the proposed Kalupur Railway precinct development, due to its location and scale, presents a clear threat to the OUV of the property, and further requests the State Party to:

   a) Urgently provide the World Heritage Centre with a status update on the project proposal, including its current planning status,

   b) Put on hold any processes towards urban planning or zoning amendments or the approval or granting of rights for the development,

   c) Commission an independent iterative HIA of the proposed development that focuses on the maintenance of the OUV of the property, and

   d) Submit details of the proposed development, with the resultant HIA report, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party, as soon as possible, to submit information on the planned precinct improvement plans, conservation work at Bhadra Fort and the Sadar Patel museum and Gujarat State Road transport corporation bus stop development project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies under the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Also noting the limited progress on the finalisation of the draft HCP, revision of the Urban Design Guidelines and the range and scale of current and planned development projects, requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, progress on the revision of the draft HCP and the Urban Design Guidelines, the functioning of the management system, and the threat to the property's OUV from new developments in the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting;

10. 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.

71. Jaipur City, Rajasthan (India)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.71

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.41** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party in advancing the Special Area Heritage Plan (SAHP) as Jaipur's Site Management Plan and the identification of the attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

4. Requests the State Party to submit the final SAHP to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and provide a detailed implementation strategy and timeline for its execution;

5. Urges the State Party to expedite the completion of the detailed base plan and inventory of attributes that contribute to the OUV of the property and to submit a clear timeline for its completion;

6. Notes with concern reports of the demolition of historic houses within the World Heritage property, indicating a lack of enforcement of heritage protection measures, and also requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on the extent of these demolitions, the legal framework for their prevention, and the measures taken to mitigate further losses;

7. Expresses concern over the operational capacity of the Heritage Cell and further requests the State Party to provide updated details on the composition, staffing, and engagement process of the Heritage Cell, along with the status of the proposal for permanent posts submitted to the State Government, and clarify interim measures to ensure the Cell's functionality until permanent appointments are made;

8. Expresses serious concern that projects such as the Conservation of Baoris/Bawaris and Jaipur Metro Rail are listed as ongoing, while their Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are reportedly still in progress, and requests the State Party to clarify how these projects are proceeding without completed HIAs;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide detailed information of the above-mentioned two projects as well as the other three projects listed in the 2024 State Party's state of conservation report i.e. Redevelopment of Kishanpole College; Extension of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital; and the pending Jaleb Chowk Redevelopment Project, including their objectives, conservation methodologies, and the status of HIAs, for review by the Advisory Bodies and ensure that all projects are subject to HIA review before implementation;

10. Also requests moreover the State Party to submit an update on how the HIA process is being revised to align with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, including details on institutional responsibilities, review mechanisms, and enforcement measures;

11. Also urges the State Party to provide information, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, regarding all proposed major conservation, renovation, refurbishment and redevelopment works planned for the property, as well as any planned or ongoing infrastructure development projects that may have an impact on the property and its OUV, for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse; and further urges the State Party to ensure that HIAs are completed and reviewed prior to the commencement of any development projects;

12. Finally requests 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.

72. Mountain Railways of India (India)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.62**, **44 COM 7B.26** and **45 COM 7B.161**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Reiterates again its request that the State Party establish full-time, in-house heritage conservation expertise to strengthen the management and conservation of the property;
4. Notes the submission by the State Party of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) and requests the State Party to provide information confirming its commitment to the policies in that document as well as a timeframe for implementing each of the policies, as follows, before the Plan is formally adopted:
    a) Supporting the proposed buffer zone and amended property boundaries recommended in the CCMP,
    b) Developing a Coordination Committee to facilitate liaison with the authorities responsible for spatial planning in the proposed buffer zone,
    c) Agreeing Memorandum of Understanding with those authorities on the protection of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and management in the buffer zone,
    d) Establishing a ‘heritage conservation unit’ with full-time professional heritage staff within the DHR or Zonal North Frontier Railway,
    e) Establishing a Mountain Railways of India Coordination Committee to liaise on matters of interest to the three components of the property,
    f) Adopting Heritage Impact Assessment processes for developments that have a potential to adversely impact on OUV,
    g) Skills retention and capacity building in railway maintenance and operations;
5. Further requests the State Party to provide, as a matter of urgency, comprehensive information about the following:
    a) The civil works carried out at Ghum, Darjeeling and Kurseong railway stations of the DHR, including photographs,
    b) The maintenance and conservation of mechanical heritage components, such as the property’s historic rolling stock and steam locomotives,
    c) The implementation of the National Monetisation Pipeline 2021, as it may affect the property, and any guidelines established to safeguard the property’s OUV;
6. Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, information regarding all proposed major conservation, renovation, refurbishment and redevelopment works planned for the property, as well as any planned or ongoing infrastructure development projects that may have an impact on the property and its OUV, for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide a timeline for the following activities and urges the State Party to expedite these processes:

a) The completion of the mapping of the property's boundaries and buffer zones of the Nigiri Mountain Railway (NMR) and the Kalka Shimla Railway (KSR),

b) The preparation and implementation of CCMP along with finalised Built Heritage Manuals for all three railways — DHR, NMR and KSR;

8. Finally requests 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.

73. Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas (India)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.38**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in encouraging community involvement in the conservation and management of the property, improving the conditions of the historical remains and significant views in the buffer zone of the Channakeshava Temple in Belur, upgrading the tourist management facilities, and establishing the Interpretation Centres;
4. Recalling its request, invites the State Party to develop a holistic Interpretation Plan and submit them for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Appreciates the State Party's commitment to monitoring the impact of the air pollution on the sculptures of the components of the property, and encourages it to develop mitigation measures based on the outcomes of the monitoring;
6. Requests 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 the Advisory Bodies.

74. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.162** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit its report on the state of conservation of the property by the deadline requested in the aforementioned Decision;
4. Notes and endorses the conclusions of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission invited by the State Party in December 2024, takes note of the mission's finding that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) remains intact despite some development projects carried out without the necessary impact assessments, and requests the State Party to implement fully the mission recommendations, including:

a) Clarification of governance arrangements, roles and responsibilities,

b) Review of the resources available for conservation of the property,

c) A programme of capacity building,

d) Preparation of a risk management and disaster preparedness plan,

e) Review of the Concourse public domain,

f) Review of the operations of the Kujon area to provide greater support for vendors,

g) Improved engagement with the local community;

5. Also regrets that the State Party has completed a series of significant projects within and around the property, despite its repeated request to halt construction and carry out the appropriate assessments, and reminds the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed and ongoing projects, including Heritage Impact Assessments undertaken in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;

6. Also takes note that Presidential Decree No. 101 of 2024 assigns considerable responsibility to the Borobudur, Prambanan and Ratu Boko Temple Tourism Park Limited Company, and recalls that the responsibility for the protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the property and its OUV is vested in the State Party, in line with Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention, and that tourism and development activities shall not take place in a manner that is contradictory to this responsibility;

7. Also requests that the State Party revise the draft Management Plan for the property to reflect Presidential Decree No. 101 of 2024 and the findings and recommendations of the mission and submit the updated draft to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation and ensuing adoption by the State Party;

8. Notes with concern that the issues addressed at the time of inscription regarding the lack of control over commercial activities and the pressure resulting from an inadequate tourism management strategy are yet to be adequately addressed, and therefore further requests the State Party to update the Integrated Tourism Management Plan of Borobudur-Yogyakarta-Prambanan (ITMP BYP) and the Borobudur Visitor Management Plan (BVMP), taking into consideration the findings of the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of June 2024 and the findings and recommendations of the mission;

9. Finally requests 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.

75. Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.75

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.163** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the State Party's progress with the designation of "The National Strategic Spatial Plan for the Subak-Bali Landscape Area in Bali" and with the establishment of nine Detailed Spatial Plans, and also welcomes the State Party's various support measures implemented since inscription to maintain the Subak system and Balinese culture;

4. Notes with concern the impacts of tourism and associated development on the property, particularly in the Jatiluwih area, and the extreme fragility of the landscape; considers that the various measure have been taken to strengthen management, and particularly traditional management through the water temples, appear to be too little to stem increasing over-tourism or to stop encroachment on rice fields, threats that could result in the loss or fragmentation of rice terraces, and weakened Subak authority relative to local and national institutions, which could impact on attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

5. Notes with concern that the highly sensitive and fragile Subak structures that underpins landscapes of small scale rice terraces appear to be at a tipping point and that urgent action is needed to strength enforcement of permits and land sale regulations on the one hand and on the other hand to enhance support for socio-economic-cultural community systems, within clearer national strategies for sustainable cultural tourism, cultural landscapes, and environmental principles, if this potential erosion of attributes is to be halted;

6. Urges the State Party to submit a detailed report along with the latest land use maps showing the loss of rice terraces and fragmentation of fields and development of tourism facilities overlapped with the maps registered at the time of inscription;

7. Encourages the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property, to be financed by the State Party, in order to fully assess the current state of conservation and to offer support for the development of a road map of necessary interventions to address the interrelated potential threats that could impact highly adversely on the cultural landscape unless mitigation measures are introduced; and also considers that such a mission would appear to be timely as nine Detailed Spatial Plans are currently in the process of being defined and the National Strategic Spatial Plan for the Subak-Bali Landscape Area is still to be finalised;

8. Finally requests 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.

76. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Iran, (Islamic Republic of))

Decision: 47 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.164**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Commends the State Party for the steps taken to centralise and digitise documentation, its efforts towards systematic archiving and reporting, the initiation of periodic monitoring protocols, and the comprehensive surveys of major monuments conducted since 2020 that resulted in updated monitoring systems, including in the property's buffer zone;

4. Welcomes the completion of the Meidan Emam World Heritage Site Management Plan 2021-2026 and the submission of the English version for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, notes that the Management Plan will require review by the State Party in 2026-2027, and encourages the State Party to review, through this process, the demonstrated effectiveness of legal and management systems and make any necessary adjustments;

5. Notes that the Management Plan makes no reference to the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes, urges the State Party to implement HIA processes for all major projects and actions that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and submit these for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and strongly encourages the State Party to include HIA processes in the revision of the Management Plan;

6. Commends the State Party for its progress with the studies associated with Phase 2 of the Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP) development process, urges the State Party to finalise these studies and draw on them to identify detailed actions to protect against risks, respond to disasters, and manage recovery processes in the next phase of the DRMP, and requests the State Party to submit these Phase 2 studies and any further planning for disaster protection, responses and recovery for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to the adoption and implementation of the DRMP;

7. Notes the submission of the outlined water system and sewage system prioritised work programme, and reiterates its request that a prioritisation of tasks and proposed commencement and completion dates be submitted as soon as possible, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

8. Notes the submission of a report on motorised and pedestrian access routes, and welcomes the State Party's assurance that motorised transport has been eliminated from the Naqsh-e Jahan Square and that the former roads within the square and in the immediately surrounding area have been fully pedestrianised;

9. Commends the State Party on the conservation work on the Emam Mosque dome, and requests that the outstanding tasks identified in the report be undertaken, and that a work plan to address the tasks be prepared and provided for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

10. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide detailed information on proposed actions to address the conservation of the Portico of Qeyssariyeh Gate, which should be supported by a HIA carried out in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

11. Requests the State Party to provide the documentation requested in the points above to the World Heritage Centre, as and when it becomes available, and well ahead of its next report to the World Heritage Committee, and to work closely with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to incorporate their feedback during the finalisation of these key documents for the management and conservation of the property;

12. Finally requests 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.

77. The Persian Caravanserai (Iran, Islamic Republic of))

Decision: 47 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.11** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party for its efforts in revising the boundaries and buffer zones of the component parts to include ancillary structures and expand protection areas, as well as for its progress in strengthening the property's management framework through governance arrangements, stakeholder coordination, and disaster risk-preparedness strategies;
4. Notes with satisfaction the establishment of a structured monitoring system with cost-effective indicators and a centralised data bank to facilitate comprehensive documentation and oversight of conservation activities;
5. Welcomes the development of adaptive reuse guidelines to help integrate sustainable tourism and commercial functions within the caravanserais while ensuring the integrity of their architectural and historical values, and encourages the State Party to continue enforcing buffer zone regulations to prevent any adverse impacts on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value;
6. Acknowledges the introduction of regular maintenance schedules for the component sites, and recommends that the State Party further strengthen financial mechanisms and capacity-building initiatives to support long-term conservation efforts;
7. Recalling its recommendation at the time of inscription that the State Party urgently revise the boundaries of the component parts to include the immediate surroundings of the caravanserais and important ancillary buildings related to each and submit a minor boundary modification request, urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, at its earliest convenience, such a minor boundary modification request in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Requests the State Party to finalise the draft Persian Caravanserai Management Plan (2025-2030) as soon as possible following the review of the minor boundary modification by the World Heritage Committee, ensuring that it fully addresses the governance, conservation, monitoring, and sustainable tourism strategies, as outlined in its aforementioned Decision, and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
9. Requests the State Party to ensure that the monitoring system is fully operational and that comprehensive data collection is regularly conducted, and encourages it to rely on the use of digital tools where appropriate;
10. Requests the State Party to continue engaging with local communities, experts, and heritage professionals in the ongoing management and conservation of the caravanserais, particularly in implementing best practices for adaptive reuse and sustainable tourism and issuing general guidelines for the adaptation of the caravanserais with regard to modern commercial and hospitality functions;
11. Finally requests 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.

78. Trans-Iranian Railway (Iran, Islamic Republic of))

Decision: 47 COM 7B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.13** and **45 COM 7B.165** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in implementing its recommendations, particularly in completing architectural inventories, developing master plans for major stations, and undertaking conservation activities with the guidance of heritage conservation experts;
4. Welcomes the establishment of a comprehensive inventory of railway stations, related heritage buildings, and engineering structures, including bridges, tunnels, and retaining walls, as well as the regular monitoring measures put in place to assess their stability and condition;
5. Requests the State Party to submit both sets of inventories to the World Heritage Centre in order to complete the property's file;
6. Takes note of the suspension of the electrification project for the Tehran–Garmsar–Bandar-e Torkaman line, and requests the State Party to formally confirm this decision to the World Heritage Centre and, should the project be reconsidered in the future, to commit to conducting a Heritage Impact Assessment in line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Welcomes the progress made in the development of the National Railway Museum in Tehran, with a feasibility study completed and content planning underway in collaboration with heritage authorities, and encourages the State Party to establish interpretation centres along the railway route to enhance public awareness and education;
8. Regrets that limited evidence has been provided regarding the full and effective participation of local communities, stakeholders, and rights-holders in the management, conservation, and interpretation of the property, and strongly encourages the State Party to establish formal mechanisms for community engagement, ensuring that local voices, traditional knowledge, and historical narratives are integrated into site management and interpretation strategies;
9. Requests the State Party to develop a long-term monitoring strategy for the conservation and management of the property, including clear indicators to track restoration progress, the condition of engineering structures, and the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement;
10. Finally requests 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.

79. Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Kazakhstan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.42** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the three-year comprehensive scientific research programme (2023-2025), which includes various studies on the physical fabric of the Mausoleum, the outcomes of which are evaluated by the Advisory Group, which has replaced the Scientific-Methodological Council, on the preservation of the Khoja Ahmed Yasawi;
4. Also welcomes the establishment of a monitoring centre that allows for the continuous monitoring of the Mausoleum and the continuing digitisation of archival material, and notes with satisfaction that the Advisory Group holds regular meetings to discuss research and preservation strategies;
5. Further welcomes the adoption of the law 'On the Special Status of the City of Turkestan' that also includes regulations for cultural heritage protection, sustainable tourism management, and urban planning, including the height limit of seven metres for structures located within 100 meters of the limits of the buffer zone, and requests that the State Party provide further details of this law to the World Heritage Centre in conformity with the Operational Guidelines;
6. Acknowledges the submission of an adopted Management Plan for emergency situations, but considers that such a Plan should be aligned with the overall Management Plan for the property and, recalling that it has repeatedly requested the State Party to complete an update of the Management Plan for the property, reiterates its request that the State Party finalise the revision of the Management Plan by extending its scope and including:
    a) Clearly articulated attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) that need to be protected and managed, developed in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,
    b) Principles and operationalisation measures for future development,
    c) A Disaster Risk Management Plan,
    d) A Visitor Management Plan for the property;
7. Commends the State Party on the restoration of the doors to the Gurkhana tomb, an important attribute of the property's OUV, and also requests conducting a study into the feasibility of reinstating these doors in their original position;
8. Notes the submission in April 2025 of the Heritage Impact Assessment report on the Azret Sultan Reserve-Museum Territory Improvement Phase 5.1 project, which is currently under review by ICOMOS and, considering that this project is located in the territory of the Ancient Settlement of Yassy-Turkestan (Kultobe Settlement) component part of the Silk Roads: Fergana-Syrdarya Corridor Serial Transnational World Heritage nomination, requests the State Party to not implement any components of this proposal until it has been positively reviewed by ICOMOS;
9. Acknowledges the information provided by the State Party to address several requests recorded in its previous decisions, and encourages further progress on the following aspects:

a) Implementing the recommendations of the February 2022 report by the International Institute of Central Asian Studies (IICAS),

b) Ensuring that the Master Plan recognises the OUV of the property, and includes a View Axis Protection Area that prohibits any new development within the area from exceeding the seven-metre height limit,

c) Submitting to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the amended Master Plan, including copies of the 'Historical and Architectural basic plan' and the 'Master plan with the marked visual access protection zone', along with the relevant written regulations and any other relevant documentation, in one of the two working languages of the Convention (French or English);

10. Reiterates its request to the State Party to continue informing it in due course, via the World Heritage Centre, about any projects that may affect the property's OUV, with necessary documentation based on rigorous independent impact assessment procedures before they are approved or implemented, and before any irreversible decision is made, in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines and in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

11. Also encourages the State Party to request the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM to provide on-site training and capacity building on the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and assist it in improving its impact assessment practice, and notes with appreciation the holding of a regional seminar on the impact assessment on World Heritage organized jointly by UNESCO Almaty Regional Office, ICCROM, and World Heritage Leadership Programme on 17-19 June 2025, in Almaty, Kazakhstan;

12. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to address conservation and development challenges around the property, including those related to planning regulations and development pressures, and further encourages it to further strengthen the planning regime and finalize a functional management plan capable of guiding future developments, while also continuing to provide comprehensive information to the World Heritage Committee on issues previously raised, in order to ensure the sustained conservation of the property's OUV;

13. 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.

80. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao PDR)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.34** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Acknowledges the State Party's ongoing efforts to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, through implementation of the Luang Prabang Conservation Plan ("Plan de sauvegarde et mise en valeur" – PSMV), support for the social and economic wellbeing of local communities, commitment to integrate the World Heritage Convention's principles within the broader context of territorial and developmental planning, environmental monitoring and reporting, including the use of GIS and the

proposed establishment of a dedicated GIS team, engagement with the owners of traditional buildings and progress with restoration and promulgation of information on intangible heritage;

4. Welcomes the State Party's advice that the status of the World Heritage Management Division remains under consideration, including its possible re-establishment as a unified technical entity, and that discussions continue about re-establishing a Heritage Fund, to support the preservation of traditional architecture, as well as the new funding secured for risk and disaster management and to support further wetlands restoration;

5. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:

   a) Submit updated elements of the PSMV to the World Heritage Centre for Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies,

   b) Take into full consideration the points raised in ICOMOS Technical Reviews as the Riverbank Protection and Park projects are implemented,

   c) Consider alternative approaches to the proposed replacement of the Nam Khan River Bridge in light of the ICOMOS Technical Review, and the option proposed by the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission of a like-for-like replacement, and to submit the selected design to the World Heritage Centre prior to implementation,

   d) Share monitoring data collected for the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers with the World Heritage Centre,

   e) Establish an urban design guidelines document, in line with the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) to contribute to the preservation of streetscapes, and inform the appropriate built form, materials and colours to be used in future development projects within the property and its buffer zone;

6. Notes that the Luang Prabang Tourism Management Plan will be subject to Technical Review by ICOMOS and requests that it not be finalised until this review is complete and any resulting adjustments have been made;

7. Also notes that the January 2024 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Luang Prabang Hydro-Electric Power Project has been revised in response to the recommendations of the 2024 ICOMOS Technical Review and the updated version has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for further review;

8. Further notes the updates provided for significant tourism and infrastructure projects and programmes, including the Mekong and Nam Khan River Disaster Risk Management Project, Urban Environment Improvement Investment Project, Interim Urban Transport Master Plan, Sustainable Urban and Transport Management in Luang Prabang, new Mekong Bridge, Riverside Tourism Development, Hillside Tourism Accommodation Project, Mekong Footpath Project and Airport Upgrade, and also welcomes the commitment of the State Party to ensure that, in conformity with previous Committee requests and the Operational Guidelines, documentation for the above-mentioned projects, including HIAs prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;

9. Notes furthermore that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission requested by Decision **46 COM 7B.34** took place in March 2025;

10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, a concise progress report on the state of conservation of the property and on the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7**, **43 COM 7B.68**, **44 COM 7B.146**, **45 COM 7B.168** and **46 COM 7B.35**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019) extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party's efforts in implementing the previous Committee's decisions and recommendations of the 2023 joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, notably the process of revising the Management Plan with an updated draft Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV), and requests the State Party to:
    a) Further refine the RSOUV in line with the analysis and suggestions of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, particularly in relation to the wider cultural landscape and Champasak town and that such consideration should involve meaningful consultation with the local community, and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and submit the draft updated RSOUV by **1 February 2026** for examination by the Committee at its 48th session,
    b) Submit the draft Management Plan, which should be based on the approved RSOUV, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before adopting it for implementation;
4. Welcomes the submission of a topographic map presenting the boundaries of the property and encourages again the State Party to investigate for the purposes of effective protection of the property, a buffer zone delineation, considering the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, and to submit a Minor Boundary Modification request in accordance with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2027**, for examination by the Committee at its 49th session, if the technical requirements are met;
5. Also requests the State Party to continue:
    a) Pursuing resource mobilisation efforts to complete the roadworks on Roads 14A and 14B,
    b) Pursuing its efforts in addressing the technical recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission,
    c) The conservation, research and valorisation of the main temple complex, Ancient City and Tomo Temple;
6. Also encourages the State Party to reinforce its efforts to improve the maintenance of the physical state of conservation of the archaeological attributes of the property;
7. Express its concern on the reported pursuit of the projected site for the Phou Ngoy Dam in proximity to archaeological sites of the property and its possible impacts on the attributes that support its OUV, while also noting the stated recommendation of the site management and provincial authorities to the central government to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and that the Project Development Agreement for this project was renewed in February 2023, reiterates its request to the State Party to:
    a) Consider an alternative location for this hydropower project,

b) Not undertake any further project or process approvals or start any further on-site operations that would limit the mitigation options available after the HIA has been completed,

c) Urgently submit any other details available on the project and the possibly forthcoming HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in compliance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines,

d) Ensure full agreement on the impacts and mitigation thereof of the project with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before taking any further decisions on its implementation;

8. Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Finally requests 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.

82. Bagan (Myanmar)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 8B.20** and **45 COM 7B.44**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Expresses its profound sympathy and deepest condolences to the people of Myanmar for the tragic loss of life and damage caused by the devastating earthquake of 28 March 2025, and welcomes the international cooperation and support in response to the earthquake and for the recovery;

4. Requests UNESCO to continue monitoring the situation at the property and to facilitate a damage assessment as soon as the conditions allow, and calls on the international community to provide technical and financial support, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund, for the implementation of protective and/or repair measures that may be required to respond to the impact of the earthquake and previous extreme weather damage, with a view to preventing secondary damage after the earthquake from additional impacts during the upcoming monsoon season;

5. Recalls the need to ensure the authenticity of the property to guide repair and restoration works, and the obligation to submit to the World Heritage Centre information on all projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, for examination by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies, before decisions that are difficult to reverse are taken, in accordance with Paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Expresses its concerns over the impact of the military actions on the property and in its vicinity, and urges all parties associated with the military activities to refrain from any action that would cause further damage to the country's heritage, and to fulfil their obligations under international law by taking all possible measures to protect such heritage, in particular the safeguarding of World Heritage properties and those included in the Tentative List;

7. Appreciates the UNESCO project “Strengthening civil society emergency response actions for safeguarding cultural heritage in Myanmar (following Cyclone Mocha)”, funded by the Heritage Emergency Fund, which helped to train local communities and heritage and disaster risk mitigation professionals on emergency preparedness and response actions to cultural heritage in affected areas including the Bagan region;

8. Commends the progress made towards implementing its previous decisions and recommendations, including important strategic documents such as the Bagan Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP), the Archaeological Risk Management Strategy, the Bagan Agriculture Sector Strategy, and the “One Map” initiative; and emphasizes the effective implementation and application of the developed strategies and tools to inform development planning and decisions-making, to avoid negative impact on the property;

9. Welcomes progress made with the draft Bagan Hotel Strategy, encourages the continuation of work towards its completion and the implementation of key actions, especially including the suspension of construction and the commissioning of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for hotel projects where construction has not yet started or that are still at an early construction stage, to be carried out in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, so that all necessary measures can be taken to avoid any irreversible negative impact on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV); and requests that a full draft of the Bagan Hotel Strategy be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by the Advisory Bodies before it is finalised and formally adopted;

10. Commends the update and implementation of the Bagan DRMP, but notes with concern the information submitted on the possible negative impacts of the approaches used to rehabilitate ancient water channels to prevent flooding risks, and requests that excavations using heavy machinery be halted and a detailed rehabilitation plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, together with an HIA report, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and that work does not recommence unless the project has been positively reviewed;

11. Notes that the next revision of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) is planned in 2029, and recommends the integration of newly developed management documents, including the Bagan Hotel Strategy, the Archaeological Risk Management Strategy, and the Bagan Agriculture Sector Strategy, to strengthen awareness and ensure their full implementation;

12. Recalls the need to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments, HIAs, and/or Strategic Environmental Assessments as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property, and reiterates the need to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, detailed information on any ongoing and future works, including any development projects, and any restoration works for damage occurring within the property or its buffer zone that may affect the OUV of the property, along with any associated impact assessments, in accordance with Paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;

13. Reiterates its request for submission of the following documents to the World Heritage Centre as a matter of urgency, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies:

    a) An archaeological report on the ground disturbance caused by the recent road works and tree planting, as well as the recent water pond digging within the project “Rehabilitation work in the ancient water channels and ancient lakes (tank)/ponds in Bagan”, including an analysis of taphonomy, soil profiles and any artefacts exposed by the works, as requested in the ICOMOS Technical Review of the road construction and tree planting programmes and its previous decision,

b) A landscape study that characterises the landscape during key historical phases to assist with the identification of appropriate tree species for future greening programmes;

14. Finally requests the submission to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2026**, of 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.

83. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.37** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Encourages the State Party in its efforts to secure the long-term conservation of the property;
4. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party organized the Lumbini International World Heritage Conference in April 2025, which brought together high-level government officers, senior staff from the Lumbini Development Trust, site managers, experts, and other key stakeholders to discuss the property's values, address concerns about its condition, and provide advice about monitoring and possible mid- to long-term solutions to the property's challenges;
5. Welcomes the continuation of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) for the property and notes that the draft Terms of Reference for the ISC will be subject to Technical Review by the ICOMOS;
6. Acknowledges the support contributed by the Government of Japan through four phases of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project from 2010 to 2024;
7. Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to:
   a) Continue implementing the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2023 ISC meeting, and to submit an updated schedule of progress with each recommendation,
   b) Submit the proposed draft strategy and action plan to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is finalized;
8. Notes the submission of five Sector Strategy documents, which will be subject to Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies before they are finalized, and requests the State Party to submit the draft Community and Sustainable Development Sector Strategy as part of this process;
9. Also notes the preparation of a 'Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden', and that the concept is being reviewed by the Advisory Bodies, requests that the complete draft of this Plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to being finalized, and reiterates its previous request to the State Party that projects arising from the review of the Kenzo Tange Master Plan for Sacred Garden and the 2023 Visitor Management Plan for the Sacred Garden in Lumbini be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), and that these HIAs and any other relevant project documentation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in

conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;

10. Notes the update provided on the condition, monitoring, interim measures and proposals under consideration for the Sacred Garden and Maya Devi Temple Shelter, particularly in relation to the ongoing threat of damage to the remains from the wet environment created by high water levels and water penetration in and around Maya Devi Temple Shelter, and that the hydrological assessment report for the Temple Shelter will be subject to Technical Review by the Advisory Bodies;

11. Reiterates its concern that the condition of the archaeological remains within the Sacred Garden and the Maya Devi Temple Shelter continues to threaten the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as per Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests that plans for improved drainage and any other planned conservation initiatives are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for Technical Review before any irreversible decisions are made;

12. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to undertake HIAs in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

13. Expresses concern regarding the disparity between the capacity of the Lumbini Development Trust and the scale of conservation efforts required at the property, and requests the State Party to further consider enhancing the overall resourcing;

14. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its overall state of conservation, assess the current condition of the archaeological remains within the Sacred Garden and the Maya Devi Temple Shelter; and review the 'Detailed Physical Plan of the Lumbini Sacred Garden'; the proposed draft strategy and action plan to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting and the development proposals;

15. 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.

84. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.47** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to continue working in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to continue supporting the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

4. Takes note of the report provided by the State Party, including a wide range of conservation projects and the ongoing efforts to address the Committee's previous requests as well as the recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, including the 'Comprehensive Report' dated August 2023, and encourages the State Party to actively engage with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS as proposed programmes are progressively implemented;

5. Also notes the conclusions of the December 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission, welcomes the reported high standard of work at the Lahore Fort and requests the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations, and in particular to:

   a) Establish a monitoring programme for the walls of Shalamar Gardens,

   b) Approach proposed adaptive re-use projects within the property with caution, based on thorough and meticulous studies which assess carrying capacity,

   c) Foster co-operative processes regarding the conservation and management of the property between levels of government,

   d) Ensure that the advisory committees for the Walled City of Lahore Authority are more inclusive of the local community and local organizations,

   e) Undertake detailed building-specific dilapidation studies, material surveys, and restoration programmes,

   f) Re-align the GT Road and undertake related landscaping works;

6. Also requests that the 'Comprehensive Report' dated August 2023 be subject to a further technical review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit details, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, to the World Heritage Centre in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for technical review prior to any irreversible decisions for the:

   a) Adaptation of the Akbari Mahal to become a public library,

   b) Restoration of the hydraulic system and the landscapes at the Shalamar Gardens,

   c) Landscaping in the Shalamar Gardens three terraces,

   d) The potential new entrance to the Fort;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit the 'Lahore Fort Precincts and Buffer Zone Master Plan', revised in accordance with the ICOMOS Technical Review, and the 'Lahore Fort Site Management Plan, to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by ICOMOS prior to their finalisation and implementation;

9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, a separate study related to the possible boundary modification to include Badshahi Masjid, the Hazoori Bagh, and the Sikh Funerary complex within the inscribed property, and a visual analysis and consideration of potential adjustments to the buffer zone of the Shalamar Gardens component part, having regard to the recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal for a boundary modification based on the outcomes of the aforementioned study, prepared in accordance with paragraphs 163 to 165 of the Operational Guidelines and including the revision of the buffer zones of either or both components of the property, after having considered all appropriate social measures, especially if any action would involve the displacement of people residing in the neighbouring areas of the property;

10. Finally requests 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.

85. Baroque Churches of the Philippines (Philippines)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.171** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the measures taken to mitigate the long-term impact of the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge (BIB), and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts, including conducting a Traffic Impact Assessment, and incorporating its findings and recommendations into a Traffic Management Plan covering at least the component part "Church of the Immaculate Conception of San Agustin (Manila)" and its buffer zone;
4. Notes that the number of visitors to the historic district of Binondo, including the San Augustin Church, has been increasing since the completion of the BIB, and therefore, requests the State Party to develop a Tourism Management Plan to address increased visitation and to submit the draft of this Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
5. Also requests the State Party to revise the Conservation Management Plan for Intramuros to address recent changes, including the buffer zone management, and the findings of the BIB Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA);
6. Welcomes the proposed development of a legal framework to better protect the property's buffer zones, but further requests the State Party to complete the process to finalise the Implementing Rules and Regulations intended to operationalise these legal provisions of the 2023 Republic Act No. 11961 as a matter of urgency;
7. Notes with satisfaction the State Party's decisions not to proceed with the reconstruction of the Baluarte de Santo Domingo and to require an HIA for projects affecting the Plaza Mexico, and requests furthermore that the HIA be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in line with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are made;
8. Expresses concern, following receipt of third-party information about a new "Pasig River Express Way" project, and requests moreover the State Party to submit comprehensive details about this project, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as soon as possible, and to complete and also submit an HIA undertaken in line with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* before any irreversible decisions are made and before any part of the project is implemented, in line with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;
9. Finally requests 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.

86. Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty (Republic of Korea)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.48** and **46 COM 7B.40**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions, respectively,

3. Welcomes the entry into force of the Special Act on Conservation, Management, and Utilization of World Heritage and the establishment of a dedicated Historic and Cultural Environment Team and Standing Advisory Committee to support heritage conservation and inter-agency coordination;

4. Acknowledges the State Party's invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission in March 2025, takes note of the findings of the mission and requests the State Party to implement fully the recommendations presented in its report;

5. Notes with satisfaction the mission's finding that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is not currently considered to be threatened, but expresses concern about the cumulative impacts of existing and planned high-rise developments in the buffer zones and wider settings of multiple component parts, particularly at Jangneung (W6), Taereung (M3), and Seooreung (W1), and considers that continued cumulative degradation of the property's wider setting may, in the future, have deleterious effects on the inherent characteristics of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines if key visual, spatial, and ritual attributes of the property's Outstanding Universal Value are further compromised;

6. Urges the State Party to:

   a) Finalise the Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the Taereung and Changneung public housing developments, along with any other outstanding HIA, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and submit them to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as soon as possible and well ahead of the Committee's next review of this property,

   b) Ensure meaningful consultation between heritage authorities and development actors, including the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Korea Land and Housing Corporation, and the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sports during all stages of planning and implementation of development projects,

   c) Operationalise the revised Special Act on Conservation, Management, and Utilization of World Heritage through the adoption of a Presidential Ordinance, to be finalised in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,

   d) Consider expanding the buffer zones of component parts in urban areas to reflect key visual, geomantic and ritual attributes, using terminology and zoning instruments that are clearly understandable to urban planners, developers, and non-heritage professionals alike, based on a refined analysis of the attributes of OUV and key sightlines for each Royal Tomb;

7. Encourages the State Party to make use of the *Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0* to identify key gaps and opportunities as well as areas for improvement and strengthening in the existing management system, and requests that it undertake a comprehensive revision of the property's Management Plan to reflect current challenges, recent legal changes, and incorporate the protection of living heritage practices and the sacred landscape values, and that it submit a draft to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as soon as possible and well ahead of the Committee's next review of this property;

8. Recognises that the case of the Royal Tombs of the Joseon Dynasty represents a precedent-setting case for the impacts on World Heritage properties of activities located in their wider setting beyond their buffer zones, and that it demonstrates the urgent need

for more explicit global guidance on the protection and regulation of the wider setting of World Heritage properties; encourages the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop guidance on this topic; and calls upon the States Parties to provide dedicated support for this activity;

9. Finally requests 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.

87. Rangiri Dambulla Cave Temple (Sri Lanka)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.173** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the ongoing efforts of the State Party to improve the overall state of conservation and management of the property and urges the State Party to continue to implement the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular addressing the conservation of the attributes conveying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Also welcomes the submission of a shared vision of visitor management at the property, which encompasses the regulations and appropriate codes of conduct that would apply to all visitors, sensitive to the needs of pilgrims, and requests the State Party to implement the identified activities and evaluate the effectiveness of this new approach to visitor management, adjusting it where necessary to find solutions that respect the spiritual importance of the property, as well as its conservation needs;
5. Requests the State Party to ensure that the new 2027-2033 Management Plan is prepared collaboratively by the key management actors and that it integrates all the issues raised by the 2023 mission report, including clearly defined governance, a thorough understanding of heritage values and attributes, defined boundaries and buffer zone, conservation, monitoring, documentation, and visitor management, among other relevant topics, and encourages the State Party to submit it, once it has been drafted, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Also requests the State Party to clearly define the boundaries of both the property and the buffer zone, define the purpose of the buffer zone, and submit this information, when completed, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Kadawatha to Dambulla section of the Central Expressway Project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, information regarding all proposed major conservation, renovation, and redevelopment works planned for the property, as well as any planned or ongoing infrastructure development projects that may have an impact on the property and its OUV, together with the required HIAs and any other relevant project documentation, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines and in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in the World Heritage Context, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;

9. Finally requests 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.

88. Silk Roads: Zarafshan-Karakum Corridor (Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.13**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the States Parties for the progress made with reinforcing coordination among themselves, conservation, management, monitoring, capacity building, interpretation and presentation, tourist management, and community involvement;
4. Welcomes the establishment of State-level heritage agencies in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to enhance the protection, conservation and management of cultural heritage;
5. Notes with satisfaction the research projects conducted and envisaged by the States Parties to assess the ancient irrigation systems along this section of the Silk Roads, also notes that investigations into the location and extent of the Toksankoriz Irrigation System will be carried out in the future by the Agency of Historical and Cultural Heritage Protection of Tajikistan, and encourages the States Parties, based on the outcomes of these projects, to submit boundary modification requests to include these irrigation facilities in the property, as appropriate;
6. Acknowledges the outcomes of the States Parties' research, according to which the remains of the Sheibanikhan Water Divider Bridges no longer warrant consideration as an extension of the property due to issues with integrity and authenticity, and encourages the States Parties to protect the sites at the highest possible national level, in the spirit of the 1972 UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage;
7. Appreciates the States Parties' commitment to planning a research project aimed at including the necropolis, the pilgrim route, and the sacred spring around the Mausoleum of Khoja Mukhammad Bashoro in the property through a minor boundary modification request;
8. Encourages the States Parties to continuously engage the local communities in site management, archaeological excavation, conservation, restoration and tourist services, so that they can benefit from the World Heritage status;
9. Appreciates the extensive capacity-building activities already commenced since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, and encourages the States Parties to provide dedicated capacity-building opportunities for the staff who are responsible for daily management of the sites;
10. Urges the States Parties to develop a five-year Management Plan for each component of the property as a matter of urgency, and also urges the States Parties to ensure that the overall five-year Management Plan includes international operational procedures and incorporate the three World Heritage properties along this section of the Silk Roads, i.e., the Ancient Merv State Historical and Cultural Park (Turkmenistan), the Historic

Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) and Samarkand-Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan), into the management of this property;

11. Requests the States Parties to address the rising damp and associated salinity issues, in collaboration with countries along the Silk Roads with past knowledge and relevant experience;

12. Regrets that the States Parties have not yet submitted Heritage Impact Assessments for the Kafirkala Archaeological Park and Paikend Museumification projects to the World Heritage Centre, and requests the States Parties, as a matter of urgency, to complete the two above-mentioned reports in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and in line with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and to submit them, together with detailed initial project designs, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;

13. Finally requests 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.

89. The Ancient Town of Si Thep and its Associated Dvaravati Monuments (Thailand)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.89

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.41** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in revising the Management Plan, establishing the information management systems, launching the land acquisition at the surrounding area of component part 002, and enhancing the monitoring system;

4. Welcomes the positive steps taken by the State Party towards implementing World Heritage Committee decisions at the time of its inscription, such as planning and implementing the research projects, developing the community engagement strategies, and protecting the buffer zones and the wider setting;

5. Requests the State Party to complete the land acquisition of the area surrounding component part 002 by 2027 and proceed with the minor boundary modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Notes with concern the status of the new oil drilling projects, requests the State Party to revise the Unitary Town Plan of Si Thep District and to develop the Unitary Town Plan of Wichian Buri to incorporate prohibition regulation on new oil drilling projects, and urges the State Party to take any necessary measures to prevent new oil drill projects from being undertaken in order to protect the property, its buffer zones and the wider setting ;

7. Welcomes the development of Heritage Impact Assessment process in Thailand and requests the State Party to follow the procedure outlined in paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines for any future works that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

8. Finally requests 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.

90. Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.174** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the continuing progress made to support conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property through regulatory change, access to expert advice, capacity building, and guidance documents, and encourages the State Party to support and implement the recommendations of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) on World Heritage sites in Uzbekistan, particularly in relation to development and conservation projects within the property and its buffer zone and previous Committee decisions and missions recommendations;
4. Noting the conclusions of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, requests the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations and to prepare and submit to the World Heritage Centre a schedule of actions already completed and the proposed strategy and programme for the further actions necessary to implement fully the recommendations of both the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2024 Advisory mission;
5. Also requests the State Party to undertake further investigations and refinements to the Eternal Bukhara project, in accordance with the findings of the 2024 Advisory mission and following the forthcoming review by ICOMOS of the recently-submitted Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), and to submit a revised detailed documentation package to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are made;
6. Also notes that the moratorium on development and new work within the property and its buffer zone will remain in place until the integrated Masterplan for the City of Bukhara and the Management Plan for the property have been finalised, and further requests the State Party when updating these two Plans to include the findings of the 2024 Advisory mission, and integrate the principles of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape within the Masterplan;
7. Expresses concern that creation of the new 'Persian Square' on the south side of the proposed Shakhristan Bazaar site occurred without notification to the World Heritage Centre, and reiterates its previous request in Decision **45 COM 7B.174** that the revised design for Shakhristan Bazaar should address the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, 2021 Technical Review and 2024 Advisory mission, and that a detailed documentation package including a new HIA prepared in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before any irreversible decisions are made;
8. Also reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, revised detailed project documentation for works already undertaken and proposed for: the Ark Citadel, (including reconstruction of the fortifications' northern wall, and projects at Jominy Mosque and the Throne Hall); the Kalon Mosque and Minaret; the Abdulazizkhan Madrassah; the Abdulakhan Madrassah; the Rashid Madrassah; the Amir Alimkhan Madrassah; the Ulughbek Madrassah; the Magoki Attari Mosque; the Caravanserais

complex; and for the 15 vertical drainage wells intended to address salinity and groundwater issues;

9. Requests furthermore the State Party to continue to prepare HIAs for all major conservation or development projects, and to adopt the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to continue submitting detailed project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Invites the State Party to develop a three-year comprehensive national capacity-building programme on World Heritage site management, HIA and technical projects for historic monuments, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

11. Finally requests 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.

91. Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.50** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes continuing efforts to support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property through improvements to the legal framework, advice from the International Advisory Committee on World Heritage in Uzbekistan (IAC), training seminars, conservation and development guidelines, tourism facilities and resources, and encourages the State Party to support and implement the recommendations of the IAC as well as previous Committee Decisions and mission recommendations, particularly in relation to development and/or conservation projects within the property and its buffer zone;

4. Notes the conclusions of the 2024 joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission in particular regarding the location of the new Silk Road Museum and the proposed 'Third Renaissance' project, requests the State Party to implement the mission recommendations, and to prepare and submit to the World Heritage Centre a schedule of actions already completed and the proposed strategy and programme for the further actions necessary to fully implement the recommendations of both the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2024 Advisory mission;

5. Also requests the State Party to update the Master Plan and Management Plan in accordance with the findings of the 2024 Advisory mission, including integration of the principles of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL);

6. Further requests the State Party to continue the moratorium on development and new work within the property and its buffer zone until the new Urban Design Guidelines, the integrated Master Plan for Samarkand and the Management Plan for the property have been finalised, submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed positively by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines:

   a) A revised detailed project documentation for works proposed to Chorsu Trade Dome, Koshhovuz and the Ulugbek Observatory complex, including as part of the 'Third Renaissance' project,

   b) Details of proposed works to remove or modify the Imari building,

   c) Detailed documentation of the proposed conservation programme for the Bibi Khanoum Ensemble and Mosque,

   d) Revised Samarkand Hotel Concept Design, which address the recommendations of the 2023 ICOMOS Technical Review;

8. Also notes the State Party's advice that it will submit a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification to adjust the buffer zone, in accordance with Paragraph 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests furthermore that the proposal follows the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission and advice from the IAC, and aligns the buffer zone with the mahalla boundaries;

9. Requests moreover for the State Party to continue to prepare Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for all major conservation or development projects, and to adopt the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to continue submitting detailed project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and further requests the State Party to provide clarification regarding the third party concerns on the expansion project of the Imam Maturidi Memorial Complex ;

10. Reminds the State Party of its previous request to develop a three-year comprehensive national capacity-building programme in World Heritage site management, HIA, and technical projects for historic monuments, including further capacity building on the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the HUL for those directly involved in the management of the property;

11. Finally requests 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.

92. Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long - Hanoi (Viet Nam)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.92

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.43** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Acknowledges the State Party's proactive attitude in promptly addressing the Committee's and the 2023 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission's recommendations to enhance the property and ensure that the Master Plan for the Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long is implemented based on good practice for World Heritage;

4. Takes note with satisfaction of the preliminary outcomes of the scientific research developed to establish with adequate confidence the architectural configuration of the

Kinh Thien Palace and its construction components, and encourages the State Party to continue this work by clarifying the levels of reliability of the hypotheses put forward concerning the configuration of the sections of the Palace;

5. Requests the State Party to review and update (if not already the case) the geometric survey of two buildings, CT20 and CT21, for which the State Party submitted a request for removal to facilitate archaeological investigations before these are removed, and share this updated documentation with the World Heritage Centre at a larger scale and higher resolution;

6. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with interim detailed written and photographic documentation of the dismantling process and of the structures of the buildings planned for removal, especially those planned to be dismantled in 2025;

7. Further requests the State Party to submit the amendments proposed to Decision 975/2015 and Decision 1481/2015 as these decisions contained principles, objectives, and interventions to orient the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of the property;

8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit as soon as possible the project documentation for the interventions being carried out at Vaxuco Building and those planned at 18 Hoang Dieu, for necessary guidance of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS during the work process to ensure the sustenance of OUV of the property and enhance its understanding;

9. Takes note of the supplementary text proposed for Vision 2034 for the future of the Central Axis of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long that it agreed upon in principle at its previous session, and encourages the State Party to:

    a) Augment this Vision as a standalone document in line with ICOMOS' advice provided in April 2024, to convey more clearly the aims to be achieved, the justification for the proposed interventions, the principles to be respected, and how it sustains the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and enhances its understanding,

    b) Complement the Vision with a phased Road Map that sets out in broad terms how the Vision will be implemented, particularly in response to the emerging results of surveys and excavations and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;

10. Strongly encourages the State Party to refine and finalise the Archaeological Strategy as a standalone document, following the advice provided in the April 2024 ICOMOS Technical Review and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;

11. Recommends that the Vision, Archaeological Strategy and Conservation and Presentation Strategy be given appropriate status for governance and management purposes and, for clear communication of the State Party's pursued intentions, they will need to be equipped with legible cartographic documentation indicating the phases, locations, and types of interventions envisaged;

12. Advises the State Party to implement the World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission's recommendations fully;

13. 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.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

93. Butrint (Albania)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.1** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Welcomes the detailed state of conservation report submitted by the State Party, and notes its overall aim to strengthen management and conservation and to improve the scrutiny of development proposals;
4. Also notes that the Butrint Management Foundation (BMF) is now functioning as manager of the property and that a Community Engagement Development Plan, an Archaeological Conservation Management Plan, a Hydrological & Ecological Plan, Strategies for Health & Safety, Disaster Management, and Site Security, and a Traffic Transport and Visitor Management Study have been drafted and are now under review; and requests the State Party to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to their formal adoption;
5. Further notes that the BMF has appointed a Community Engagement Officer to foster the engagement of local communities in management and tourism development;
6. Notes furthermore that the management and protection zones for the National Park have been revised and approved, and that the property, which is managed by the BMF, permits 'regulated ecotourism in nature'; and requests the State Party to clarify what this activity encompasses, where it is envisaged to be allowed, and under what conditions approval may be granted;
7. Takes note the other three remaining zones of the National Park, which combine to form the buffer zone, have their own protection arrangements for safeguarding assets within their boundaries, and also requests the State Party to clarify how these zones are to be protected in terms of supporting the OUV of the property;
8. Also takes note of the adjustments made to the National Park boundaries, resulting in a reduction of its area by 802.2 ha, appreciates the clarification provided on the delineation of the buffer zone within the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide, as a matter of priority and no later than **15 December 2025**, a clear map delineating the boundaries of both the property and its buffer zone as inscribed, in compliance with Decision **23 COM VIII.C.2** (1999), the related 1999 ICOMOS Evaluation, and Decision **31 COM 8B.60** (2007).
9. Further requests the State Party to submit the updated Heritage and Environmental Impact Assessments (HIAs/EIAs), accompanied by a renewed timeline for the proposed new Visitor Centre, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, together with an analysis of the identified adverse impacts of the "Archaeological Gate", for which architectural changes are to be proposed;
10. Acknowledges the information regarding the approval of the Ksamil by-pass, a new road in the buffer zone, for which details were not submitted in advance in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and notes that a further section of the road is planned within the property, for which details are currently being revised; further requests the State Party to submit details of this proposed road, together with an HIA for

the entirety of the project, to the World Heritage Centre for review before any planning or contractual commitments are made;

11. Also welcomes the State Party's efforts to institutionalise the HIA process but urges the State Party to finalise this as soon as possible before any new permits or approvals are granted either within the property or its buffer zone, the wider National Park;

12. Encourages the State Party to consistently implement the Operational Guidelines, in particular paragraphs 118bis and 172, for all new constructions, infrastructure projects and major restorations that may affect the OUV of the property, and to do so before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, may assist in seeking appropriate solutions through dialogue, consultation and review;

13. 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.

94. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.75**, **41 COM 7B.40**, **43 COM 7B.79**, **44 COM 7B.151**, **45 COM 7B.51** and **46 COM 7B.2** adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's efforts to resume the development and finalisation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property and encourages continued strengthening of the role of the Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation (MECI), the National Institute for Cultural Heritage (NICH), and local authorities in the management of the property, particularly in applying the IMP and integrating Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into planning processes;

4. Notes with concern that some of the recommendations of the 2021 Reactive Monitoring mission remain unaddressed, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure their full and timely implementation;

5. Requests the State Party to:

   a) As a matter of priority, finalise the IMP within the proposed timeframe, incorporating previous recommendations from the Advisory Bodies and actively involving local authorities, while addressing emerging challenges such as tourism pressure, urban development, and demographic change, and submit by **1 December 2025** the pre-final draft of the IMP, including a detailed implementation timeline, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,

   b) Clarify how existing planning tools and regulatory frameworks will be harmonised with the IMP to ensure coherence and avoid duplication,

   c) Ensure the inclusion of robust strategies within the IMP to mitigate transformation pressures in the property components and their buffer zones, and to ensure that all interventions contribute to the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,

d) Ensure adequate resources for implementation and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Coordination Committee in the context of the changed institutional arrangements;

6. Also notes the State Party's ongoing efforts to integrate Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into the legal and administrative frameworks, and reiterates its request that HIAs be conducted to asses both specific and cumulative impacts of development projects already implemented or planned, including the Gjirokastra bypass road and other infrastructure and development projects within or in the wider setting of the property, notably those under the Integrated urban and Tourism development (PIUTD);

7. Also notes with concern that no updated information has been provided on the 'Gjirokastra Castle Sustainable Management and Tourism Valorisation Masterplan' and invites the State Party to follow up on the ICOMOS comments and recommendations concerning the proposed museum interventions, technical and architectural specifications, the state of conservation of the Gjirokastra Castle, and the 2022 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report;

8. Further notes with concern that several projects, including the project 'Enhancing Touristic Attractivity of Berati Castle by Improving Touristic Accessibility', may negatively impact the property's OUV and urges the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Reviews, including to:

   a) Suspend any further decisions or work on both the Shkëmbi Road and Osum River projects until comprehensive HIAs, which include detailed Visual Impact Assessments and appropriate mitigation measures, have been carried out,

   b) Undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as a matter of urgency for the Osum River riverbank protection works;

9. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to develop an integrated urban conservation and development tool, to support the diversification of development plans for the property and promote a resilient and sustainable economic future, and recommends that such tool be aligned with the principles of the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;

10. Furthermore reiterates its request that the State Party submit details of any development projects that may affect the property to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to any irreversible decision, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and ensure that HIAs are carried out in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

11. Acknowledges the State Party's efforts to limit unauthorised construction activities within the property and reiterates its request furthermore to the State Party to strengthen enforcement measures and provide regular updates on the status of interventions and the effectiveness of actions taken to protect heritage assets;

12. 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.95

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.18**, **44 COM 7B.152** and **45 COM 7B.175** adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the continued operation of the International Standing Conference (ISC) for the property, the conservation works completed and underway at various components of the property, and the efforts to strengthen the protective function of buffer zones for some components;
4. Recalls both the intended proactive role of the ISC in evaluating the potential impacts of development proposals across the entire property, and the Committee's previous requests to ensure that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for new projects within the property and its buffer zones, prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, assess impacts on the property as a whole and not solely on individual components, and requests that future submissions of project proposals and associated HIAs to the World Heritage Centre include the ISC's evaluation;
5. Takes note of the new HIA being prepared for the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Ancillary Structures project, the Multilevel Basement Car Park, and the Holistic Development of Punjab and Haryana High Court project within the Capitol Complex of Chandigarh, and recalls its request that the State Party of India submit the revised project proposals, together with the new HIA, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any further decision on implementation;
6. Regrets that demolition permits have been issued for building elements of the Manufacture in Saint-Dié (France), and further requests that:
    a) The demolition of these elements not be implemented,
    b) The current visitor centre project, reviewed by ICOMOS in 2024, not be further approved or implemented, and that the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review be fully addressed,
    c) A revised and iterative HIA be undertaken for the proposed visitor centre, with the aim of developing a project design that does not negatively impact the contribution of this component to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
    d) The Scoping Report for the updated HIA process be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Finally requests 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.

96. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.96

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.41** and **45 COM 7B.176** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's adherence to sensitive planning procedures at national and local levels for project proposals that may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), but expresses concern that these procedures do not align with the World Heritage procedures outlined in the Operational Guidelines, and encourages the State Party to ensure full compliance with its obligations under the Convention;
4. Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner of any major development project that may negatively impact the OUV of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Requests the State Party to enhance the dialogue with the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies that may assist in finding appropriate solutions to proposed changes and developments that ensure that the OUV of the property is fully preserved;
6. Notes the information and updates provided on planned and proposed changes and developments and also requests the State Party to conduct an impact assessment process in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* for the renovation and extension of the Salzburg Festival Hall and the construction of the BIOGENA office building (including a visibility study for the latter) and to submit the full plans for their final design with the outcomes of the Heritage Impact Assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review and comment by ICOMOS before irreversible decisions are made;
7. Acknowledges the information provided on the spatial planning instruments of the City of Salzburg, and further requests the State Party, in the context of updating the Management Plan of the property, to:
    a) Assess the vulnerability of the property, including planned and proposed changes and developments in its buffer zone and wider setting,
    b) Assess the effectiveness of the management system using the *Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0*,
    c) Develop adequate management mechanisms to ensure that the planning framework is applied in a way that protects and preserves the OUV of the property and its underlying attributes,
    d) Identify mechanisms to undertake impact assessments (including visual impact assessments and cumulative impact assessments where appropriate) in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* for projects affecting the OUV of the property,
    e) Submit the updated draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review with ICOMOS prior to its finalisation and adoption;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to consolidate and harmonise the relevant spatial planning instruments of the City of Salzburg with the updated Management Plan of the property and the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape to ensure that the values and attributes of the property's OUV are protected and preserved;

9. Also notes the reported renovation, conservation and protection measures to preserve the property, as well as the plans for a World Heritage Visitor Centre, and also encourages the State Party to submit these plans to the World Heritage Centre for information and review by the Advisory Bodies;

10. Requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, preferably before its next session, to assess the impact of already implemented and planned projects within the property and its buffer zone, as well as the effectiveness of the World Heritage management system of the property, and to stimulate dialogue between the State Party and the Secretariat;

11. 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.97

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling 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. Commends the States Parties on the progress made in responding to its requests and recommendations since the property's inscription;

4. Reiterates its recommendation 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. Takes note of the confirmation of the legal protection for Montecatini Terme (Italy), Bad Ems (Germany) and Bad Kissingen (Germany), welcomes the improvements made for the components of Baden bei Wien (Austria) and Spa (Belgium), but nevertheless, encourages 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. Also encourages 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. Welcomes that the proposal for redevelopment of the Bath Gasworks has been amended in accordance with ICOMOS recommendations, notes 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, requests 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 requests furthermore the State Party of the UK to avoid any proposals that could adversely impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

8. Acknowledges 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, notes ICOMOS' concerns regarding the priorities of the draft Plan and further requests 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. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.98

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.5,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.42** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Commends the State Party for the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations made at the time of inscription, notably the establishment in September 2023 of the Khinalig and Köç Yolu State Historical, Cultural and Ethnographic Reserve, aimed at ensuring the highest level of protection to the key attributes underpinning the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and supporting its integrated management and conservation;

4. Welcomes the updated Management Plan and the finalisation of the Conservation Master Plan, and encourages the State Party to sustain adequate long-term funding and resources, as well as to promote the meaningful engagement of local communities in their implementation;

5. Notes the ongoing efforts, including legislative amendments currently underway in collaboration with national institutions, to align the 2022 Restoration Manual with international conservation standards, and urges the State Party to finalise these processes to ensure that the authenticity and integrity of the property are maintained;

6. Requests the State Party to complete the cadastral data collection and mapping process, and to ensure the integration of all relevant heritage elements into the State Inventory List to support effective management and adequate protection;

7. Also requests the State Party to provide updated information on the progress made towards the restoration of the building stock and on the implementation of the Management Plan and the Conservation Master Plan, including actions undertaken to enhance community engagement;

8. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.99

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.178** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in developing a detailed inventory of urban forms, building types, traditional building materials, architectural details, and gardens within the property, its buffer zone, and the surrounding forest in the wider setting, all integrated into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database accompanied by an orthophoto plan;
4. Notes that that the inventory of privately owned sections of the property is nearing completion, while the preparation of detailed documentation 'passports' for registered monuments, intended to serve as state-mandated Conservation Plans, is underway;
5. Invites the State Party to continue and complete this inventory process, including the detailed preparation of conservation passports for registered monuments, to provide a robust evidence base for ongoing monitoring and management of the property and its buffer zone, and to submit the complete draft inventory to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation;
6. Also welcomes the draft Special Protection Regulations (SPR) prepared for the property and its buffer zone, recognising that, if adopted, they will strengthen urban landscape protection by granting the Reserve Administration and the State Tourism Agency legal authority to monitor, manage, and approve alterations to urban entities within the property and its buffer zone;
7. Notes, however, that ICOMOS, in its Technical Review of the SPR, has identified the need for the regulations to be explicitly grounded in the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, which should be clearly distinguished from other national and local values;
8. Further notes the identified legal discrepancy between the SPR and the existing Land Code provisions concerning private land ownership within the property and buffer zone, and stresses that this issue needs to be resolved;
9. Requests the State Party to:
    a) Undertake further refinement of the SPR text to explicitly link rules, regulations, restrictions, and limitations to clearly defined attributes of the OUV, based on the adopted Statement of OUV,
    b) Continue consultations with relevant authorities to resolve legal inconsistencies between the SPR and the Land Code and ensure coherent and effective implementation, over the whole property including private land;
    c) Submit a revised draft of the SPR to the World Heritage Centre for further review by the Advisory Bodies before finalisation;
10. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.100

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.52** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes 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. Also notes the significant progress made by the State Party of Belgium in reinforcing the legal protection of component parts, and requests 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. Also welcomes the completion of the requested adjustments to the boundaries and buffer zones of several components and also requests the State Party of France to transmit the updated maps to the World Heritage Centre without delay, preferably with the associated GIS data;
6. Further welcomes the establishment of the 'Mission Patrimoine de la Première Guerre mondiale' for the coordinated management of the component parts in France and invites 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 further requests 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. Strongly encourages the States Parties to proceed with updating the transnational Management Plan as the overarching framework for all interventions and activities in the property;
9. Also reiterates its recommendation 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. Welcomes furthermore 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 recommends 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. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.101

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.43**, **45 COM 7B.179** and **45 COM 8B.70** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the significant progress made by the State Party in addressing the Committee's requests and mission recommendations, in particular the completion of the assessment of the attributes underlying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, the Vision for the Future of the Ancient City of Nessebar and its Implementation Roadmap, and the draft Conservation and Management Plan (CMP), and requests the State Party to finalise these documents in accordance with ICOMOS recommendations by **1 February 2026**;
4. Notes that additional attributes should be identified based on the adopted Statement of OUV, which should remain central to conservation efforts in addressing the challenges highlighted by the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission;
5. Recommends that the Vision for the Future of the Ancient City of Nessebar and its Implementation Roadmap, once finalised and adopted, be fully integrated into all key planning instruments for the protection and management of the property, including the CMP, the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for Nessebar Municipality 2021-2027, and the Cultural Heritage Strategy for Nessebar Municipality 2023-2032;
6. Also requests that a recovery plan for the historic urban landscape and coastal zone of the peninsula be developed as a matter of urgency and incorporated into the CMP as a priority action;
7. Urges the State Party to accelerate the development and adoption of the General Development Plan (GDP) for Nessebar Municipality, given its importance for regulating development in the buffer zone and wider setting, and further requests that strict interim safeguarding measures be applied to the property, the buffer zone and the wider setting during the GDP's elaboration to avoid negative impacts on the attributes of OUV;
8. Further recommends that the draft GDP be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to assess whether its provisions may have negative impacts on the property's OUV and its underlying attributes;
9. Acknowledges the efforts undertaken to conserve the medieval churches within the property and encourages the State Party to implement the approved and funded conservation projects promptly, and to prioritise interventions for other churches in need of attention;
10. Also welcomes the decision not to proceed with the proposed primary school and sports facility within the Necropolis of Messambria-Mesembria, further encourages the State Party to explore the feasibility of extending the Archaeological Museum to support the conservation and presentation of the Necropolis, invites it to keep the Committee informed of the progress in this regard and reiterates its recommendation to formally propose a minor boundary modification for the buffer zone of the property to include the area of the necropolis and strengthen its protection;
11. Expresses its concern regarding the potential impact of the Nessebar Port Terminal and Marina on the state of conservation of the property, including its underwater cultural heritage, reiterates its previous recommendations on the matter, particularly the need to

consider the long-term relocation of the Port Terminal and Marina facilities outside the peninsula and the visibility area of the property, recommends to the State Party to identify short- and medium-term solutions for the rehabilitation of the Marina and the Port Terminal areas, ensuring their uses are compatible with the safeguarding of the attributes underlying the property's OUV, and encourages the State Party to invite an ICOMOS Advisory mission to assess these matters in detail and provide guidance in line with the objective of the property's protection and conservation;

12. Further invites the State Party to develop a sustainable and eco-friendly traffic interchange system on the mainland to enable visitor access to the peninsula via public transport, to restrict parking for visitors to the mainland, and to regulate parking within the Ancient City for residents and fishing port users only;

13. Requests furthermore the State Party to continue implementing the outstanding recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission;

14. Requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in the summer of 2026 to assess the progress made in improving its state of conservation and in implementing the Committee's previous decisions, and to provide up-to-date, on-site information on the ongoing threats that may continue to have deleterious effects on the inherent characteristics of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, for consideration at its 49th session;

15. Finally requests 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.

102. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.102

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.180** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the State Party's commitment to the protection and preservation of the Old City of Dubrovnik, congratulates the State Party on the 'Year of UNESCO World Heritage in Dubrovnik' program and acknowledges 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. Notes with appreciation the progress with key strategic documents, including the phase one capacity-building strategy and risk management plan, and encourages 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. Also encourages 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. Reiterates its request 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. Notes the progress made towards the finalisation of the Preparedness and Risk Management Plan, and requests 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. Further encourages 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. Acknowledges the ongoing work on the cleaning and restoration of the sewage channels and encourages furthermore 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. Also requests 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. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.103

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 8B.21, 44 COM 7B.43** and **45 COM 7B.181** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the States Parties for their continued support to the International Coordinating Group (ICG) and its ongoing efforts to establish coordinated approaches to management, change management, and development, as well as transnational strategies for research, conservation and interpretation, and encourages the States Parties to continue enhancing the harmonised protection and management of the property;

4. Notes the progress made in the preparation of local management plans, and requests that the remaining plans be finalised as a matter of priority, and that the ICG review both

the completed and draft plans to ensure they include comprehensive information on the respective component, including the identified attributes that underpin the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), key indicators for assessing their state of conservation, and the proposed methodology for monitoring, along with a values-based framework to guide future decision-making, and further, to improve consistency, completeness and integration across the plans;

5. Welcomes the submission of the template for the preparation of local conservation management plans, and recommends that the ICG further develop this template to ensure a clear focus on the OUV and the attributes contributed by each component, which must be conserved and against which future impacts can be assessed;

6. Notes with concern that the Visitor Centre at Minerska Bay (Šibenik) was completed without the prior submission to the World Heritage Centre of any documentation or Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), despite the Committee's previous request, and that inadequate information on the completed project has been provided;

7. Also requests that the respective States Parties submit to the World Heritage Centre, in one of the two working languages of the World Heritage Committee (English or French), full documentation, including HIAs focused on the OUV of the property and the attributes that support it, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to the implementation of the following projects:

   a) The renewal of the Citadela Bastion project (Zadar),

   b) The Ravnice Urban Plan project/Gates of Zadar,

   c) The urban redevelopment and rehabilitation project in Palmanova, including the proposal for the restoration and reuse of the piezometric tower;

8. Further requests that the State Party of Croatia review the "Citadela Nova" project on the site of the Old Technical School in Zadar, taking into account the recommendations of the 2025 ICOMOS Technical Review;

9. Also notes the updated information concerning the Fara parking project within the Bergamo component and the prepared Sustainable Mobility Urban Plan, encourages the State Party of Italy to take into consideration the guidance provided in the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of 2019 and 2024 when finalising the HIA, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit the final project plans, the HIA and associated parking data to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to any irreversible decisions being taken;

10. Requests moreover that the States Parties, individually and through the ICG, continue to pursue as an urgent priority the completion of pending actions requested by the Committee, including:

    a) The finalisation of local conservation management plans for each component, based on a revised common template as recommended above,

    b) The development of visitor management plans for all components in a harmonised manner, based on the completed carrying capacity studies, and focused on sustainable tourism and the protection of the property's OUV,

    c) The revision of the joint Management Plan of the property to incorporate a joint monitoring approach for the state of conservation and management of the serial property as a whole, and the values-based, transnational strategy for conservation, promotion and interpretation,

    d) The revision of the buffer zones, as follows:

(i) Zadar: following the completion of the new Conservation Plan, which assesses areas outside the existing buffer zone and should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,

(ii) Kotor: following the proposal for extension to include the Bay of Kotor, which must be supported by a clear rationale, particularly in light of the proposed exclusion of the land-based fortifications, contrary to ICOMOS recommendation,

(iii) Peschiera del Garda: based on the provided report and maps,

and the submission of these proposals, once finalised, as minor boundary modifications in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines,

e) The development and application of a coordinated and harmonised approach to HIAs for all planned changes and developments that may affect the OUV and its attributes based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

11. Reminds the States Parties of their obligation to inform the World Heritage Centre, in due course, of any major restoration or development project that may affect the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decisions are taken, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and to carry out systematic HIA procedures in accordance with Paragraph 118bis;

12. Finally requests 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 examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

104. Historic Centre of Prague (Czechia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.104

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.183** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Commends the work being undertaken on the extensive and innovative Prague Heritage Reservation Study to assess the cumulative impacts of all projects executed within the property, its buffer zone, and the wider setting since its inscription on the World Heritage List, and notes that the detailed preliminary findings indicate an intensification of built-up areas, particularly in the New Town, with irreplaceable local losses, disruption to the urban structure and facadism, while the raising of building heights and new high-rise structures have had cumulative impacts on the skyline;

4. Encourages the State Party to complete this study as soon as possible and present a final report that sets out the impact of different developments on the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the city as a whole, as well as the lessons learned to help frame more targeted legislative and planning tools;

5. Welcomes the continuing work to draft and approve new legislation and improve planning instruments with the aim of putting in place uniform legislation for the protection of the property, and particularly the approval of Update No. 5 of the City of Prague Principles of Territorial Development, which includes Historic Urban Landscape Principles, the Territorial Study of the Prague Heritage Reservation, and the new Building Act 2023;

6. Also welcomes the commitment of the State Party to undertake Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* once a Czech translation of the manual has been completed, and requests the State Party to clarify how the new Building Act, which aims to streamline planning applications, will accommodate the necessary timeframes and documentation requirements of the HIA process;

7. Notes that the Territorial Study of the Prague Heritage Reservation will provide a basis for more detailed territorial planning documents and spatial planning materials for 34 areas, and that the City Council has approved the drafting of these further documents for three pilot studies in the Karlov, Wenceslas Square, and Petrská areas;

8. Also notes that the updated Principles include a proposal to test options for possible high-rise structures within the whole city, with regard to heritage preservation, and also requests the State Party to ensure that this is undertaken within the context of HIA processes;

9. Acknowledges that the State Party is committed to all prior agreements on major projects being respected, but notes with concern the acknowledgement that the three approved tall buildings of the Kavčí Hory Residence Park will worsen the cumulative impacts on the Pankrác view horizon, and that further high-rise construction is being prepared to the rear of the Pankrác Plain and in the southeastern view horizon;

10. Further notes that the draft Metropolitan Plan, which is still under consultation, includes proposed height restrictions and further requests the State Party to undertake an assessment of the impact of these proposals on OUV using the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* as part of the consultation process and before any approval is given;

11. Further acknowledges the extensive dialogue initiated by the State Party with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies over the past two years in relation to the Vyšehrad Railway Bridge, including an Advisory mission to Prague, notes that the mission concluded that it was feasible for the existing bridge to be maintained, restored and augmented with a new rail line constructed alongside, requests furthermore the State Party to preserve and restore the Vyšehrad Railway Bridge in its current location due to its contribution to the OUV of the property, and invites the State Party to consider the other recommendations of the mission regarding the bridge and its surroundings;

12. Notes furthermore that a detailed architectural study of the new Vltava Philharmonic Hall is now available and reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare an HIA of the project and submit it together with the finalised plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any final decisions are made;

13. Finally requests 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.

105. Paris, Banks of the Seine (France)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.105

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decisions **46 COM 7B.7** and **46 COM 8B.39** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Commends the State Party for the reopening of the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral in December 2024, and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre regularly informed about progress in ongoing conservation and restoration works, and to submit documentation for forthcoming conservation projects for review by the Advisory Bodies;

4. Notes that, despite "an unfavourable opinion", as stated in the report of the State Party, from the National Commission for Heritage and Architecture, the project to create contemporary stained-glass windows to mark the period of the fire and restoration, intended to be installed in six chapels on the south aisle of the cathedral in place of the existing 19th-century stained-glass windows, has progressed;

5. Recalls that such a project should be the subject of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, taking into account the logic adopted by the reconstruction/restoration intervention, and a consensus among the various stakeholders, and therefore further requests that a thorough and independent HIA be carried out and transmitted, alongside full project details, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Also notes with satisfaction that the development of the Management Plan for the property has commenced, encourages the State Party to build upon the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in this process, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the integrated Management Plan, including the new Risk Prevention and Management Plan included, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;

7. Takes note of the recommendations developed by the multidisciplinary commission established to guide the redevelopment of the Place de la Concorde, as well as the technical studies and reports produced, and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre additional information on the project development and documentation, including the related HIA undertaken based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, as soon as available for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;

8. Regrets that no further advanced and detailed documentation concerning the redevelopment and revitalisation of the Île de la Cité and the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral grounds was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before its administrative authorisation, requests that detailed project documentation be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests furthermore that works do not begin prior to such review;

9. Further encourages the State Party to continue and enhance its dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in relation to the restoration work of the Cathedral and its grounds, the redevelopment of the Place de la Concorde, as well as other parts of the Avenue des Champs-Élysées within the boundaries of the property;

10. Also takes note of the State Party's confirmation of the dismantling of the installations and facilities put in place on the occasion of the Olympic Games, in late 2024, with no adverse effects on the property;

11. 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.

106. Gelati Monastery (Georgia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.106

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.47** and **45 COM 7B.54** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the significant efforts and financial resources invested in the conservation and rehabilitation works at the property since the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission, and notes with appreciation that the State Party is guided in these works by the recommendations of the Advisory mission endorsed by the Committee;
4. Takes note of the report of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, endorses its recommendations and requests the State Party to follow them in further conservation and rehabilitation works and in improving the effectiveness of the management system of the property;
5. Underlines the need for conservation and rehabilitation work to be guided by a holistic conservation programme, which should include a plan and roadmap, and requests the State Party to develop this as a matter of priority and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies by **1 December 2025**;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a detailed permanent roofing project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its implementation and to include as part of the project a detailed outline of the future water collection system linked to the new roof;
7. Notes with satisfaction the completion of the update of the Management Plan of the property and invites the State Party to finalise and implement it in cooperation with relevant stakeholders;
8. Further requests the State Party to revise the Master Plan of the property, taking into consideration the recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Strongly encourages closer cooperation between the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation under the Ministry of Culture and Sport and the Temporary Committee for the Rehabilitation of Gelati to ensure the long-term protection and management of the property as a whole, including its buffer zone;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to take place in the summer-autumn of 2026 to assess the appropriateness of the conservation efforts undertaken, progress in the development and implementation of the holistic conservation programme, implementation of the Management Plan, steps taken to improve the management system, and the overall state of conservation of the property;
11. Finally requests 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.

107. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.107

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.186** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Acknowledges the State Party's continued efforts to advance the development of the Management Documentation for the Spatial Territorial Development of Mtskheta, including the Mtskheta Urban Land Use Master Plan (ULUMP), and requests the State Party to finalise, adopt and submit the ULUMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies no later than **1 February 2026**;
4. Takes note of the continuous implementation of the 'Enactment of Special Regime of Regulation of Urban Development and Land Privatisation in the Cultural Heritage Protection Zones of Mtskheta Municipality' (the Moratorium) until the Management Documentation for the Spatial Territorial Development of Mtskheta is adopted, and until all the necessary control and monitoring systems are put in place, and also requests the State Party to strictly implement the Moratorium in the meantime;
5. Welcomes that the ongoing conservation work at the Jvari Monastery Complex and the Samtavro Monastery takes into account the ICOMOS recommendations contained in the respective Technical Reviews;
6. Also welcomes the decision of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia not to approve the Tbilisi Wind Power Plant project in the wider setting of the property, which would have had adverse impacts on the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
7. Further welcomes the initiative to restore a significant part of the forest adjacent to the Jvari Monastery, as well as the construction of the Tbilisi Bypass, which will result in a significant reduction of the heavy traffic load on the existing highway running beneath the Jvari Monastery;
8. Invites the State Party to continue implementing the recommendations of the 2018 Advisory mission, as well as to take into account the recommendations included in the relevant ICOMOS Technical Reviews, to ensure that actions with negative impacts on the World Heritage property are avoided;
9. Further invites the State Party to continue to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed development within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken that may be difficult to reverse;
10. Further requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of the actions taken to address the water infiltration problem at the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral due to recent heavy rainfall;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress made in completing the ULUMP and the level of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Technical Reviews, as well as the effectiveness of the Moratorium and the overall state of conservation of the property and the factors affecting it;

12. 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.

108. Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt (Germany)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.108

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling 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. Welcomes with satisfaction 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. Commends 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. Notes with satisfaction 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. Notes the further information and clarification provided regarding the revised design of the planned Visitor Centre, and encourages 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. Also encourages 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. Requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.109

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.83**, **44 COM 7B.155** and **45 COM 7B.187** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Appreciates the State Party's efforts to advance the development of the draft Management Plan and to revise and refine the attributes conveying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as well as the creation and refinement of tools linked to or forming part of the Management Plan, and encourages the State Party to

   a) Await detailed recommendations from the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in order to expand and finalise the Management Plan,

   b) Develop a sustainable tourism strategy for the property, as previously requested,

   c) Ensure that the Management Plan, and the supporting tools developed serve to protect and preserve the OUV of the property and its underlying attributes in all relevant decision-making processes;

4. Notes the status of the planned bridge over the Rhine and the State Party's intention to submit the detailed design plans to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS, and requests the State Party to develop the design plans through an iterative impact assessment process in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

5. Also notes the reported planning framework for wind energy projects in both Rhineland Palatinate and Hesse, and also encourages the State Party to adopt a similar approach, based on a sensitivity assessment, for solar energy projects to ensure their compatibility with the preservation of the OUV of the property;

6. Notes with concern that the completion of the 'Hall of Myths' building has not proceeded with a flat skylight, as previously encouraged, and reminds the State Party of its previous request to develop a strategic spatial framework, supported by a thorough impact assessment, for the future use of the Loreley Plateau, ensuring that it supports the OUV of the property;

7. Regrets that the State Party did not fully consider the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission in relation to the cable car in Koblenz, which is now planned to become a permanent means of public transport for the city, and did not consider and assess alternative routes and locations for the valley station, and takes note of the process initiated to redesign both stations to mitigate their visual impact on the property's values and attributes;

8. Further notes the status of projects at varying planning stages and reiterates its previous request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS:

   a) The revised plans for the Koblenz Brewery before irreversible decisions are made on any specific project proposal,

   b) Any new proposals for the expansion of the Sooneck quartzite open-pit mine, together with the relevant impact assessment, before any decisions are taken,

   c) The plans for the modernisation or replacement of the existing moorings in the Rhine, together with the corresponding impact assessment documentation, as soon as it becomes available;

9. Commends the State Party for the careful and considerate approach taken in the planning process for the 2029 National Horticulture Show and further encourages the State Party to:

   a) Develop the specific construction plans through iterative impact assessment processes in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,

   b) Keep the World Heritage Centre regularly informed of relevant updates;

10. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to implement noise mitigation measures related to the freight rail corridor within the property, but also regrets that the bypass route to

divert freight trains away from the property is not currently a priority in the Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan and encourages furthermore the State Party to explore alternatives for a long-term solution of this factor affecting the state of conservation of the property;

11. Finally requests 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.

110. Zagori Cultural Landscape (Greece)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.110

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.34** adopted at the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Takes note of the progress made by the State Party in implementing actions to address recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription;
4. Further takes note of the establishment of a digital platform that will form the basis for the conservation and management of the property as a whole, and requests the State Party to ensure its long-term sustainability and relevance;
5. Welcomes the tripartite Cultural Development Programme Agreement and further requests the State Party to share with the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible details on the specific actions taken, how they will be supported and funded, and details of the structure of the Advisory Committee and how community involvement and participation will be sustained;
6. Recognises the need to continue efforts to develop management tools that ensure a cohesive and sustainable approach to ensure the long-term conservation and management of the property, and also requests the State Party to:
    a) Strengthen the Management Plan to ensure that it fully integrates a Local Master Plan based on a comprehensive conservation plan, including measures to address depopulation and abandonment of houses, and a sustainable tourism strategy, with costed and detailed timetables for implementation,
    b) Incorporate consideration of the attributes conveying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and their vulnerability into local disaster response plans, and develop coordination and integration mechanisms to ensure that the entities responsible for the management of the property are consulted and involved, as appropriate, in immediate disaster response,
    c) Complete the study on the impact of climate change on the property and incorporate the findings into the Management Plan, ensuring the inclusion of specific disaster risk reduction measures, including an assessment of the potential effects of natural reforestation,
    d) Provide detailed information on management arrangements, in particular on how stakeholders and rightsholders will be involved in decision-making processes for the property, and how their engagement will be sustained,
    e) Provide updated information on the legal protection measures adopted for the traditional villages and how these will support conservation endeavours;

7. Invites the State Party to prioritise the implementation of conservation measures for the built environment, based on the priorities identified in the condition assessment studies, and to use the recently developed digital platform to establish a comprehensive monitoring and research programme;

8. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State Party to develop capacity-building programmes and encourages it to continue these efforts to ensure transmission of know-how and the use of traditional materials and techniques that preserve the authenticity of the attributes underlying of the OUV of the property;

9. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.111

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.56** and **46 COM 7B.8** adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the State Party's intention to continue to avail the expertise of ICOMOS in the further development and overdue finalisation of the Management Plan for the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a daft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest opportunity, without awaiting the adoption of regulatory amendments to the national legislation;

4. Regrets that, despite the Committee's repeated requests to halt works under the National Hauszmann Programme (NHP) to allow for dialogue on potential modifications, extensive works have continued, and considers that the scale and pace of implementation of the NHP and its large scale reconstructions, many of which only relate to facades, are matters of serious concern, and that several aspects of the ongoing and proposed reconstruction works could prove extremely damaging if the NHP and other similar reconstruction initiatives within the property continue unchecked;

5. Urges the State Party to ensure that, in order to minimise further potential negative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the need for full demolition and reconstruction of long-lost buildings within the NHP be reassessed in favour of more sustainable solutions, including the adaptive reuse of existing and currently vacant structures;

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed plans and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for all components of the NHP yet to commence, to enable review by the Advisory Bodies and facilitate expert advice on mitigating potential negative impacts on the property's OUV, with particular attention to its authenticity and integrity, especially within the Buda Castle Quarter;

7. Requests furthermore the State Party to suspend all further work on the Citadel project until an HIA for the project has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies, to ensure no negative impact on the attributes conveying the OUV of the property;

8. Takes note moreover of the conclusions of the 2025 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and also requests the State Party to implement its recommendations in order to improve the state of conservation of the property and strengthen its management system;

9. Recalls the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, stressing the obligation to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, prior to making decisions that are difficult to reverse, of the intention to undertake or authorise, in an area protected by the Convention, major restorations or new constructions that could impact adversely on the OUV of the property;

10. 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.

112. The Porticoes of Bologna (Italy)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.112

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling 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. Commends 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 encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to achieve further progress;

4. Notes 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 requests 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. Acknowledges 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. Welcomes the initiative to update the property's Management Plan, and also encourages 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. Also notes the updated information on planned interventions and developments, including the initiative to stabilise the Garisenda tower, and further requests 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. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.113

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 7B.27**, **40 COM 7B.52**, **41 COM 7B.48**, **43 COM 7B.86**, **43 COM 8B.46**, **44 COM 7B.50**, and **45 COM 7B.189** adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the invitation of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property that took place in October 2024, and requests the State Party to consider its findings and implement its recommendations;

4. Notes with satisfaction the reported improvements in governance and management of the property, and also requests the State Party to continue its efforts, in line with the Committee's previous recommendations to urgently:

a) Advance with the identification of the tangible and intangible attributes that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), to establish a shared understanding and framework among stakeholders, and ensure that the relevant data are incorporated into GIS databases,

b) Establish, in cooperation with the city of Venice and other relevant municipalities, an operational site management body with a clearly defined scope and responsibility for the entire property,

c) Further revise the updated draft Management Plan in line with the recommendations of both the 2024 ICOMOS Technical Review and the 2024 Advisory mission, and submit the revised version to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to finalisation;

5. Acknowledges the implemented and planned flood prevention measures and projects, including the State Party's continued significant investment in the operation of the MoSE, ongoing environmental protection and monitoring efforts, as well as the development of a new Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, and encourages the State Party to:

a) Establish a dedicated database related to climate change information specific to the property's OUV and its attributes,

b) Develop predictive models, and based on these, appropriate mitigation measures to safeguard the property's OUV,

c) Integrate potential mitigation measures into the updated Management Plan;

6. Also welcomes the continued enforcement of the ban on large ships from the San Marco Basin and Giudecca Canal, and the State Party's effort to conduct studies regarding port traffic operations within the Lagoon but further requests the State Party to:

a) Accompany the programme related to developing port systems, whether inside or outside the Lagoon, and the opening or reopening of waterways within the Lagoon, with a Strategic Environmental Assessment process to ensure that proposed solutions do not increase tourism pressure or cause other negative effects on the property's OUV and its underlying attributes before initiating related projects,

b) Consider prioritising the option of redirecting large ships to other more suitable ports in the region to reduce traffic of large vessels in the Lagoon;

7. Also notes the draft Functional Tool for Skyline Policy document, and requests furthermore the State Party to:

a) Further develop the document into a comprehensive and coherent Skyline Policy framework in line with the recommendations of both the 2025 ICOMOS Technical Review and the 2024 Advisory mission,

b) Ensure that the developed Skyline Policy framework incorporates restrictions in the planning framework for built height and volume of planned buildings within and around the property that might have an adverse visual impact on the property's OUV,

c) Integrate the restrictive provisions of the Skyline Policy into the applicable local and regional planning frameworks to ensure effective protection and preservation of the property's OUV;

8. Notes with reiterated concern the development pressure within and around the property, and that the current planning framework is not aligned with the requirements of Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines concerning impact assessments, and therefore urges the State Party to:

a) Revise the regulatory and planning framework to ensure full alignment with the implementation of the World Heritage Convention,

b) Ensure that appropriate impact assessment procedures are carried out individually for projects that have the potential to adversely affect the property's OUV and its underlying attributes,

c) Refrain from approving any projects within and around the property that may have a negative impact on its OUV;

9. Reminds the State Party of its previous requests to establish a buffer zone for the property as an additional layer of protection, supported by an appropriate regulatory framework, and also urges the State Party to resubmit a revised Minor Boundary Modification proposal to this end as a matter of priority, taking into consideration Decision **43 COM 8B.46**;

10. Also acknowledges the tools and measures in place for managing tourism pressure within the property, but notes with great concern that the lack of significant progress in reducing the number of daily visitors and limiting short-term rentals of private apartments and houses, and therefore further urges the State Party to:

a) Develop a dedicated, comprehensive Sustainable Tourism Management Plan focused on the property, based on systematic data collection and taking into account the property's carrying capacity,

b) Introduce appropriate legal measures based on the developed Sustainable Tourism Management Plan that enable the development and implementation of measures to significantly reduce the pressure from mass tourism on the property,

c) Ensure measures are also put in place to restrict further expansion of infrastructure supporting visitor activities within and around the property,

d) Ensure that revenue generated from tourism management measures is allocated towards enhancing property management, supporting heritage conservation and maintenance, and improving the quality of life for local residents;

11. Urges furthermore the State Party to further develop the set of corrective measures, with a timeframe for their implementation, based on the specific recommendation of the 2024 mission, and to submit them to the World Heritage Committee for adoption as a matter of priority, and no later than **1 February 2026**;

12. Reiterates its previous concern regarding the potential deterioration effects of human interventions, development pressure, mass tourism, and climate change, which could lead to irreversible change if appropriate measures are not implemented in line with the recommendations of the 2020 and 2024 Advisory missions, requests moreover the State Party to urgently advance its efforts to fully implement these recommendations, and emphasises that urgent and coordinated action by all relevant stakeholders is essential to maintain the conditions of authenticity and integrity of the property, and to prevent a situation in which the property would meet the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as set out in paragraphs 177 and 179 of the Operational Guidelines;

13. 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.

114. City of Valletta (Malta)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.114

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **33 COM 7B.113**, **38 COM 8E** and **45 COM 7B.190** adopted at its 33rd (Seville, 2009), 38th (Doha, 2014) and extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) respectively,
3. Welcomes the submission of the draft Management Plan, the Views and Vistas Analysis (VVA), and a proposal for a buffer zone for the property, as well as the implementation of, and submission to the World Heritage Centre of, impact assessments for projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Notes with concern that the current planning policies and regulations do not sufficiently safeguard the setting of the property, and requests the State Party to revise the VVA, the 2006 North Harbour Local Plan, the 2014 Planning Policy Guide on the Use and Applicability of the Floor Area Ratio, and the 2022 Grand Harbour Local Plan to establish effective height controls within and around the property;
5. Also requests that the draft proposal for the buffer zone be further developed, with particular attention to a more detailed assessment of the delineation of its northern boundary, especially in the area north of the property across Marsamxett Harbour, which has been identified as having high development potential;
6. Encourages the State Party to develop an Action Plan with short-, medium- and long-term objectives to implement the actions outlined in the Management Plan, with particular priority given to the provision of essential services, improvement of living conditions for residents within the property, and the monitoring and management of tourism; and further requests the State Party to submit the updated Management Plan, including a detailed Action Plan, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;
7. Welcomes the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for several large-scale development proposals, and also encourages the State Party to continue strengthening the HIA process by fully considering indirect and cumulative impacts of ongoing and future projects, both individual building adaptive re-use and larger-scale developments, within the property and its proposed buffer zone, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context; and to submit detailed information on all such projects, along with their respective HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any planning approvals, including for the entire 2021 Master Plan for Manoel Island and the proposed repurposing of the Evans Building, as well as to supplement the Conservation Management Plan for the Evans Building accordingly;
8. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.115

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.11** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Welcomes the invitation and facilitation by the State Party of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property, as requested in its previous decision;

4. Requests the State Party to halt any further approvals of new construction and development projects within the property and its buffer zone until legal, administrative, and institutional policies and planning frameworks are harmonised and adjusted, at national, regional, and local levels to ensure effective protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and its proactive, efficient management, as follows:

   a) Undertake an audit of the practical application of the 2010, 2013, 2018, and 2019 laws, and considering amendments to relevant legislation to include specific and clear provisions on the integration of heritage protection tools and procedures into spatial planning instruments and plans,

   b) Require cumulative impact assessments alongside, or integrated into, individual Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and institutionalise mid-term cumulative impact assessments (e.g., every three years) that analyse and compare actual development with projected growth scenarios and adjust planning controls accordingly,

   c) Amend the Spatial Urban Plan of Kotor and other relevant urban planning instruments of municipalities with territories within the property and its buffer zone to include monitoring indicators, specific protective overlays, and enforceable, heritage-sensitive zoning provisions,

   d) Complete the revision of the Management Plan in parallel with the recommended updates to national legislation, municipal spatial urban plans, and all territorial planning and management tools,

   e) Ensure that the Kotor section of the new Spatial Plan of Montenegro fully integrates World Heritage considerations, particularly the protection of OUV,

   f) Carry out Strategic Environmental Assessments for any policy, plan or programme that could affect the property, particularly to support the development of a sustainable tourism development strategy centred on safeguarding the property's OUV,

   and invites the State Party to submit all the above documents related to the management model of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their formal adoption;

5. Further requests the State Party to undertake a cumulative impact assessment of all individual projects that have been evaluated through separate Heritage Impact Assessments since 2023, with a view to identify appropriate mitigation measures for any potential negative impacts on the property's OUV, and to submit this assessment to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Urges the State Party to expedite the finalisation of the revised draft Management Plan with a view to making it a fully operational tool for the effective management of the entire World Heritage property and its buffer zone, and also requests the State Party to submit the final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies at the

earliest opportunity and prior to its formal adoption, as well as the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and its Action Plan, and to ensure appropriate incorporation of the recommendations of the 2018 and 2025 missions, addressing in particular the following issues:

a) Development issues in accordance with the updated legal frameworks, spatial, and territorial planning tools of all municipalities with territories within the property and its buffer zone,

b) Protection and conservation of tangible and intangible attributes that convey the property's OUV and other heritage values,

c) Establishment of effective and fully operational monitoring mechanisms for the supervision and control of conservation and restoration interventions on historic buildings, in particular developing context-specific conservation and restoration guidelines for historic buildings in Perast and all other historical settlements within the property;

d) Disaster risk reduction measures following the adoption of a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and its Action Plan,

e) Sustainable Tourism Management specific to World Heritage,

f) Alternative solutions to cruise ships docking in the Kotor Bay;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit at the earliest opportunity the following documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are taken:

a) The comprehensive Buffer Zone study, delineating areas in and around the property where impact assessments should be required for potential projects, identifying and mapping areas of high sensitivity to visual, structural, and contextual impacts in order to protect the property's OUV, and integrating these into all local planning instruments to ensure consistency between national and local zoning maps,

b) The final decision on the Verige bridge project and proposed alternative solutions, including an HIA, before any irreversible decisions are taken,

c) The detailed spatial plan under preparation for the conversion and construction of a hotel complex on the site of the former Fjord Hotel and Jugooceantija building and/or any other relevant information regarding renovation proposals, while urgently completing the legal protection process for the "Jugooceanija" building and ensuring its complete institutional and physical protection;

8. Welcomes the halting of quarrying activities and further requests the State Party to permanently halt quarrying, planned extraction, and concession expansion within the property and its buffer zone, to establish strict no-extraction zones, and to develop a mitigation strategy to limit potential harm to the property's OUV, addressing issues of reclamation and environmental monitoring;

9. 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, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require reinforced management and broad mobilization, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger**.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.116

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.23** and **45 COM 7B.192** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively;
3. Commends the State Party for further enhancing the legal protection of the property and for developing the 'Area Analyses' document, as well as the 'decision-making framework for the renewable energy transition', and encourages the State Party to:
    a) Further refine these tools in line with the recommendations of the relevant ICOMOS Technical Reviews of June 2025;
    b) Carry out individual impact assessment procedures in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit on Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context for each specific project proposal, including the assessment of cumulative impacts;
4. Considers the development of a 'Spatial Perspective for the Dutch Water Defence Lines' an appropriate ambition in light of the development pressures faced by the property and its wider setting, and also encourages the State Party to provide further information on the aims and outcomes of this process through timely submission of material to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Welcomes the cancellation of the projects in Woudrichem and at Fort Kudelstraat, as well as the plans for recovery work at Gorinchem-Waardenburg, and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any new plans and proposals affecting components of the property;
6. Acknowledges the appropriate action by the State Party in response to illegal activities at Fort bij Velsen, and also requests that the State Party follow the advice provided by ICOMOS in its relevant 2025 Technical Review before implementing the project;
7. Takes note of the development of a Master Plan and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for planned projects at Munnikenland and Loevestein Castle, recalls the provisions of Paragraph 86 of the Operational Guidelines which states that 'in relation to authenticity, the reconstruction of archaeological remains or historic buildings or districts is justifiable only in exceptional circumstances and is acceptable only on the basis of complete and detailed documentation and to no extent on conjecture', and further requests the State Party to:
    a) Review the 2024 Master Plan to ensure alignment of the proposals with the maintenance of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
    b) Submit the proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies should reconstruction plans be retained;
8. Also takes note of the proposed urban expansion northeast of Werkendam and the planned developments in Voordorpse Veld, all located within the boundaries of the property, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit these, along with their associated HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
9. Also considers that the preferred 'Golf Course' variant of the A8-A9 connection is likely to have adverse impacts on the property's OUV, and requests moreover the State Party to:

a) Ensure that any selected project is consistent with the conservation of the property's OUV,

b) Maximise the planned mitigation and enhancement measures, and incorporate them into the 2021 Landscape Plan,

c) Submit details of the project timeline and design to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

10. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.117

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.193** adopted at the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party and other stakeholders, in particular the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, to ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including ongoing conservation and protection measures, as well as the implementation of educational and commemorative initiatives within the property and its setting;
4. Takes note of the update to Part 3 of the Conservation Strategy focusing on the historical landscape surrounding the property, and encourages the State Party to ensure its integration into relevant planning and conservation frameworks;
5. Welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2021 Advisory mission;
6. Notes with concern that the Management Plan for the property remains undeveloped, despite the establishment of a national coordination team, and strongly urges the State Party to prioritise its completion in close cooperation with the site manager and other stakeholders, and to submit its final draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;
7. Reiterates its longstanding recommendation for the establishment of a formal buffer zone for the property, encompassing both the silence zone and the wider protection zone, as originally foreseen at the time of inscription, and encourages the State Party to explore all legal and planning mechanisms at its disposal to achieve this;
8. Recalls that, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party is required to notify the World Heritage Centre of any major restorations or new constructions within the protected area that may affect the property's OUV as early as possible and prior to any irreversible decisions, and requests that Heritage Impact Assessments, focused on the property's OUV and guided by the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, are conducted in advance of any such development projects within or around the World Heritage property;

9. Finally requests 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.

118. Centennial Hall in Wrocław (Poland)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.118

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 7B.12** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Commends the State Party for translating into Polish the Resource Manuals '*Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*' and '*Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0*';
4. Regrets the limited information provided by the State Party in its report on the state of conservation;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to:
    a) Strengthen the management system and related mechanisms to ensure the systematic implementation of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
    b) Develop mechanisms for integrating Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) into the management system, ensuring that all projects, irrespective of their scale and nature, are assessed in accordance with the methodology outlined in the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context*, with particular attention to their impact on the attributes that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
    c) Develop a cumulative HIA for all projects undertaken within the property, its buffer zone, and wider setting since its inscription, providing a basis for assessing potential negative impacts on the attributes conveying the OUV of the property and identifying appropriate mitigation measures to be integrated into the revised Management Plan;
6. Urges the State Party to finalise the revision of the Management Plan for the property by the end of 2025, ensuring that it incorporates an overall Development Plan for the property and its buffer zone, as well as measures to address the management system shortcomings, and that it explains how implemented and planned projects support the OUV of the property, and how some implemented projects have undermined the integrity and authenticity of its attributes, and to submit the final draft of the Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its formal adoption;
7. Expresses concern regarding the negative impact of the glass roof constructed over the courtyard of the Four Domes Pavilion in 2015, particularly on the authenticity of the property, and further requests the State Party to plan for its removal at the earliest possible opportunity in order to restore this key attribute of the OUV of the property to its original shape;
8. Also requests the State Party to halt the project replacing the decorative and well-preserved garden of perennials within the property, created in the mid-1980s, with a replica of the original layout, to undertake an HIA of the project in accordance with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and to share it with the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Takes note of the conclusions of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, including its assessment of the now-completed Great Island Avenue road project, and further requests the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations in order to improve the state of conservation of the property and strengthen its management system;

10. Finally requests 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.

119. Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System (Poland)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.119

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 8B.25**, **44 COM 7B.53** and **45 COM 7B.195** adopted at its 41st (Kraków, 2017), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Regrets the limited detail provided by the State Party in its report on the state of conservation of the property, and urges the State Party to include a more comprehensive update on the implementation of the Committee's decisions in its next report;

4. Welcomes the continued engagement of the various stakeholders involved in the protection and management of the property, and encourages their sustained involvement, as well as the ongoing conservation of its above-ground components;

5. Notes the completion of 3D scanning of the accessible underground areas of the property, commissioned by the Tarnowskie Góry Land Lovers' Association, further encourages the State Party to ensure that this information is used to augment the GIS multi-layered mapping system for the property, and reiterates its request that the GIS system be further developed to include information from existing inventories;

6. Also welcomes the establishment of the Multidisciplinary Scientific Committee for the Research on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Tarnowskie Góry with institutional support, notes that the previously requested research and inventory programme on the property's attributes is planned, invites the State Party to accelerate its preparation, and reiterates its request that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, a comprehensive inventory of all above-ground attributes, including photographic documentation and an assessment of their state of conservation;

7. Further notes the progress made in initiating the registration of two additional above-ground attributes in the national Register of Monuments, while noting that six others remain pending, and further requests the State Party to expedite the process of registering all above-ground attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

8. Recalls its request that the State Party conclude the feasibility analysis concerning the extension of area A5 to join area A4 and to finalise and submit all necessary documentation for the addition to the property of the historic water tower adjacent to the Kaehler Shaft, and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, without delay, the above-mentioned feasibility analysis and information on the options

investigated for including the historic water tower, to enable analysis by the Advisory Bodies and the provision of appropriate advisory support;

9. Finally requests 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.

120. Historic Centre of Guimarães and Couros Zone (Portugal)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.120

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.48** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the listing of the Historic Centre of Guimarães and Couros Zone as a National Monument, along with the formal designation of the expanded buffer zone;
4. Commends the State Party for the progress made in preparing the Inventory of Sightlines, Landscape Legibility Plan, Water-Related Infrastructure Survey, Rehabilitation Strategies for the Couros Tanneries, and associated guidance documents, and requests that all these documents be finalised and adopted as soon as possible;
5. Also requests that information and documentation (in one of the working languages of the World Heritage Committee) concerning the following planned development projects, which may have potential impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), be submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre, together with Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any implementation of:
    a) The Fábrica do Arquinho project, located in the southern part of the buffer zone,
    b) The proposed urbanisation of the former Cães de Pedra factory site, situated south of the buffer zone,
    c) The planned new hotel development in the eastern part of the buffer zone;
6. Further requests the State Party to develop a monitoring plan incorporating key indicators to assess tourism-related pressures on the integrity and authenticity of the property, and to submit the draft plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Strongly encourages the State Party to address the current lack of adequate legislative protection for the wider setting of the property;
8. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to inform the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, of any major development project that may negatively affect the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decisions are taken;
9. Also requests 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.

121. Royal Building of Mafra – Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park (Tapada) (Portugal)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.121

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 8B.30, 44 COM 7B.54** and **45 COM 7B.196** adopted at the 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in strengthening management tools, particularly the development of the Global Maintenance Plan for the National Palace of Mafra and the Strategic Plan for Research, Innovation and Scientific Culture for the National Tapada of Mafra, as well as the ongoing archaeological and environmental research, documentation, and cartographic inventory of the Tapada landscape and historic features;
4. Reiterates its request to develop an Integrated Management Plan to provide an overarching and cohesive framework for the conservation and management of the property, and recommends that the Plan should include the following elements:
    a) Overarching policies for the conservation and sustainable management of the property, its buffer zone and wider setting,
    b) A mapping of intersections and complementarities among existing management tools to identify potential clearly defined governance arrangements, including operational guidelines and the composition of the Cooperation and Advisory Units to ensure inclusive and representative decision-making,
    c) Integrated and costed short-, medium- and long-term action plans with identified responsibilities for implementation,
    d) A time-based monitoring and reporting framework with indicators to assess the effectiveness of the management approach;
5. Notes the information on planned projects at the property and further requests the State Party to submit detailed documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to implementation and upon completion of study phases, for the following projects:
    a) Restoration proposals for the Basilica and the Library, and renovation plans for the surrounding area of the Palace and Convent,
    b) Refurbishment proposals for the interior of the Palace,
    c) New construction and adaptation projects at Cerco Garden,
    d) Landscape and/or Rehabilitation Plans for the Military Parade Square;
6. Finally requests 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.

122. Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga (Portugal)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.122

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 8B.31**, **44 COM 7B.158** and **46 COM 7B.13** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the progress made in the implementation of previous requests, including those made at the time of inscription, welcomes the additional funding secured, the removal of the terrace bar, the improved signage and establishment of the nature walk, as well as the reprogramming of the rehabilitation of the Post Office (Casa dos Correios) and creation of the Interpretation Centre, the rehabilitation of the funicular stop, the conservation and restoration of the exteriors of the three chapels of the Terreiro dos Evangelistas, and the rehabilitation of the Portico area, and requests the State Party to ensure the timely implementation of these actions in accordance with the revised timeline provided;
4. Also requests the State Party to expedite its efforts to:
    a) Complete the inventory of the heritage elements of the property,
    b) Continue developing additional monitoring indicators to address the state of conservation of the park and woodland,
    c) Finalise the Braga Master Plan, including a monitoring mechanism for urban developments that may have an impact on the property, its buffer zone and wider setting, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its formal adoption,
    d) Continue to monitor closely the threat of fire through the implementation of the 'Intermunicipal Sacromontes Programme', the Municipal Forest Fire Defence Plans of the Municipalities of Braga and Guimarães, and the Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Rural Fires (PEPIR), which should be strengthened with an action plan, a clear timetable, defined measures and identified implementing entities,
    e) Provide further information on the timeline and specific details regarding the rehabilitation of the Casa dos Correios and the creation of the Interpretation centre,
    f) Continue updating the Management Plan to include:
        (i) The detailed Conservation Plan, as a basis for a well-planned and long-term conservation approach,
        (ii) A Tourism Management Plan that includes actions, time schedules and dedicated resources,
        (iii) The results of the vegetation study to present, manage and sustain the vegetation, particularly the tree heritage, as an important element of the property that supplements its landscape attributes,
        (iv) A revised and more effective monitoring system by ensuring regular reporting on conservation work, the state of the park and wood, the impact of visitation and the threat of urban expansion/development and forest fires;
5. Calls upon the State Party to make every effort to mobilise the necessary expertise and, if needed, to identify additional and/or alternative sources of funding to expedite the

implementation of the activities and actions foreseen since the time of inscription of the property;

6. Recalls that in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party is required to submit detailed information for all proposed developments that may affect the property and ensure that these are subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), including their potential cumulative impacts, in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to submit all relevant documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any decision being taken;

7. Finally requests 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.

123. Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.123

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.197** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the substantial progress made in responding to the need for a holistic and integrated approach to the conservation and restoration of the buildings and cultural landscape of the property, as well as for development that supports and enhances the cultural and natural attributes conveying its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as identified by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission;

4. Notes that an extensive integrated set of guiding documents for the protection, conservation and management of the property is currently being finalised, and that the legally defined Cultural Heritage Site of Federal Significance, approved for the property and its setting, together with the associated regulations for its implementation, will form the basis for the revision and harmonisation of the Concept for the Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago with the revised Management Plan for the property and the Solovetsky Settlement Master Plan (Development Strategy);

5. Also notes the clarification that 'development' within the Concept for the Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago refers not to major infrastructure projects, but to sustainable development that respects the property's OUV and local values, and that the Solovetsky Settlement Master Plan (Development Strategy) will be amended accordingly to prioritise the conservation, optimal use and rationalisation of existing structures over further territorial expansion;

6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies and prior to their approval:

   a) An updated Concept for the Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago, including clarification regarding the potential reconstruction (restoration) of "lost" monastic structures and sites associated with historic economic activities,

   b) An updated Management Plan for the property,

   c) The Solovetsky Settlement Master Plan (Development Strategy);

7. Also welcomes the major conservation programme being undertaken by the Service for Maintenance, Repair and Restoration of Cultural Heritage Sites, established by the Ministry of Culture, and the initiation of a restoration programme for the historic hydrological systems on the main island;

8. Further welcomes the State Party's commitment to submit details of major projects, such as the Preobrazhenskaya Hotel restoration project currently under study, together with associated Heritage Impact Assessments, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Finally requests 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.

124. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.124

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.198** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Commends the State Party for its continued and meticulous conservation efforts at the property, including works undertaken in the Church of the Transfiguration and other elements of the property, as well as measures taken to improve the quality of life for residents within the buffer zone through electrification and employment generation initiatives;

4. Takes note that the restoration project for the Church of the Intercession, including the upgrading of the fire detection and response system, is currently under development, and that the relevant documentation will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to implementation;

5. Welcomes the State Party's initiative to develop an external fire extinguishing system to enhance the protection of the property, and requests that this project be subject to an iterative Heritage Impact Assessment, undertaken in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Also takes note of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2024 ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property, including concerns related to tourism development pressures and community engagement, and also requests that the State Party implement the mission's recommendations, notably:

   a) The development and implementation of a management plan to ensure the sustainable availability of appropriate wood for future conservation and restoration works,

   b) The development of an updated Sustainable Tourism Management Plan for the property, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,

   c) The continuation and strengthening of its community engagement and support measures, with a view to fostering a resilient and active community within the wider setting of the property;

7. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.125

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.199** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Takes note of the progress made by the State Party in relation to the legal and regulatory frameworks for the property and welcomes the establishment of the State Centre for the Management, Conservation and Study of the Petroglyphs of Karelia;
4. Acknowledges 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 recognises the efforts to further develop planning tools for the safeguarding of the property;
5. Notes 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 reiterates its request for an augmented and strengthened Management Plan, including a full Conservation Plan and Visitor Strategy;
6. Encourages 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. Further welcomes the incorporation of the Risk Management Plan into the management system of the property, recognises its potential in coordinating actions between different stakeholders, and requests the State Party to further refine the Plan by clarifying responsibilities, timeframes and costs;
8. Recognizes furthermore the importance of the 'Comprehensive (interdisciplinary) scientific research programme' and recommends 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;
9. 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;
10. Further requests 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 calls on 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;

11. Encourages 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;

12. Finally requests 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.

126. Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro, a landscape of Arts and Sciences (Spain)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.126

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.21** and **45 COM 7B.200** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes the reported progress in the implementation of its previous requests, in particular the establishment of a buffer zone around the property;

4. Also welcomes the specific 'Programme for the improvement of public spaces and urban landscape quality within the property', but regrets that the State Party has neither notified this programme to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, nor undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess the potential impacts of the planned changes on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and therefore requests the State Party to:

    a) Assess the visitor carrying capacity of the property in relation to the nature and extent of the planned changes,

    b) Consider the cumulative impact of the planned and proposed projects on the property's OUV and its underlying attributes before proceeding with their planning and implementation,

    c) Systematically submit project proposals under this programme, accompanied by Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS,

    d) Approve and implement only projects that demonstrate no adverse impact on the property's OUV and the attributes that support it;

5. Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to resolve the legal issues relating to the listing of buildings within the property and encourages the State Party to complete this task with a view to providing a consistent level of protection for the property as a whole;

6. Notes the process of updating of the Management Plan of the property with the aim of incorporating a comprehensive interpretation strategy for the property, also requests the State Party to submit the updated draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its approval and adoption, and also encourages the State Party to use the updating process to:

    a) Assess the effectiveness of the site management using the '*Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0*',

b) Include in the updated document:

(i) A system for monitoring the state of conservation of the property,

(ii) Measures for climate change adaptation,

(iii) Measures for its sustainable use and sustainable tourism management;

7. Also acknowledges the information provided regarding the new Master Plan of the Buen Retiro Gardens, and further requests the State Party to:

a) Ensure that the new Master Plan, along with any other similar plans, aligns with the protection and preservation needs of the property,

b) Submit the draft Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to its approval and adoption,

c) Ensure the integration of the Master Plan, as well as any other similar plans, into the updated Management Plan;

8. Also notes that the establishment of the Civic and Social Board as an independent association has not been successful, appreciates the efforts to review its purpose, composition, structure and functioning in order to become a participatory body in the management of the property, and further encourages the State Party to find solutions to effectively engage the community in the management of the property;

9. Further welcomes the efforts of the State Party to revise the project for the expansion of the Niño Jesús University Children's Hospital, and requests furthermore the State Party to submit the revised proposal with an HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to a final decision on it;

10. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.127

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.201** adopted at the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in addressing concerns raised since the inscription of the property;

4. Notes that it is not possible to inscribe the entire buffer zone as a 3rd Degree Archaeological Zone due to the absence of archaeological remains in the section surrounding the quarries, and requests the State Party to prepare a Conservation Development Plan and to guarantee that all other land-use plans and regulations fully take into account World Heritage requirements to protect the property and to ensure that the buffer zone is used appropriately while providing an additional layer of protection;

5. Also requests the State Party to continue implementing the drainage rehabilitation plan with appropriate archaeological supervision and to provide an update on progress;

6. Acknowledges the submission of information on modern buildings in the vicinity of the Ancient Marble Quarries and further requests the State Party to define appropriate

construction parameters, including density, volume, and height, to avoid cumulative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and to inform the World Heritage Centre of any future plans for additional structures, providing updates on progress;

7. Commends the State Party for the well-structured and comprehensive Management Plan for 2025-2029 and its OUV-centred approach and furthermore requests that the finalisation and formal approval of cooperation protocols with all key responsible institutions be expedited to ensure clarity of roles, responsibilities, and resource commitments, and that the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review be implemented, with the revised Plan submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

8. Also commends the State Party for the development of the Fire Action Plan and urges its full and timely implementation, securing the necessary long-term financial and human resources to guarantee its sustainability and requests the State Party to strengthen and update the Plan in accordance with the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review and to provide an update on progress;

9. Reiterates its call to the State Party that any projects within or around the World Heritage property should be assessed based on their potential impact on the OUV, in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage context, and that the World Heritage Centre should be informed in due course, before any irreversible decisions are made, in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Finally requests 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.

128. Arslantepe Mound (Türkiye)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.128

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.5,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 8B.22, 45 COM 7B.202** and **46 COM 7B.14** adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Takes note of the actions undertaken by the State Party in response to previous Committee decisions, particularly with regard to the response to the 2023 earthquake, the construction of the additional permanent protective roof shelter, and the establishment of new visitor facilities;

4. Notes that, despite these efforts, limited progress has been achieved on several key issues raised since the time of inscription, and regrets that the comprehensive Conservation Plan and Strategy, and the Risk Preparedness Plan have not yet been finalised, despite their importance for guiding conservation, excavation, and maintenance interventions, as previously requested by the Committee;

5. Further notes that the five-year term of the property's Management Plan expired in early 2024, and requests the State Party to initiate the revision process as a matter of priority, with a view to enhancing the plan to include clearly defined local management roles and responsibilities, decision-making processes, and the integration of a Conservation Strategy Plan, Risk Preparedness Plan and Visitor Management Plan;

6. Also requests the State Party to:

   a) Finalise and implement the Conservation Plan and Strategy and Risk Preparedness Plan to ensure the sustained conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,

   b) Develop a detailed archaeological plan that prioritises conservation, identifies areas for potential excavation, and adopts a predominantly non-invasive approach to safeguard the site's integrity,

   c) Develop a comprehensive Visitor Management Plan (to be integrated into the Management Plan) that ensures an appropriate balance between increased visitation and conservation requirements, clarifies the relationship between visitor facilities including the new Visitor Centre and the Malatya Museum, and outlines any anticipated future developments,

   d) Assess the findings of recent archaeological surveys to determine whether the current boundaries of the property remain appropriate, or whether adjustments are required to ensure the protection of newly identified features;

7. Strongly encourages the State Party to adopt a more strategic approach to conservation and management, to ensure that all outstanding concerns are adequately addressed in a planned and sustained manner;

8. Further requests the State Party to provide information on any project within or around the World Heritage property that may have a potential impact on its OUV, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

9. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.129

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.32**, **45 COM 7B.57** and **46 COM 7B.15** adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Commends the State Party for allocating resources to the continued restoration of the city walls and monuments in both public and private ownership following the earthquake of 2023, as well as for the archaeological investigations at the Inner Castle; welcomes the State Party's restated commitment to maintaining dialogue and undertaking impact assessments for newly planned urban, infrastructural and landscaping projects within the property and its buffer zone, and encourages the State Party to strengthen its engagement with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, including through the timely submission of documentation for review;

4. Notes that a study has been conducted to identify illegal structures/buildings around the Ten-Eyed bridge, and reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently submit an Action Plan, outlining a timeline of feasible actions, to reverse the negative impacts of developments in the setting of the Bridge since inscription, to the World Heritage Centre in one of the two working languages of the Committee;

5. Requests the State Party to expedite its commitment to conducting further detailed analyses and to developing possible land management strategies for the Hevsel Gardens, and to mitigate the impact of the Tigris Valley Recreation and Afforestation Project and the Tourist Ring Road between Mardin and Dag Gates;

6. Also notes that stakeholder meetings have commenced in preparation for updating the Management Plan for the property, as well as of the preliminary Action Plan tables included in the State Party's report; recalls its ongoing concern regarding the impact of the various projects implemented within the property and its buffer zone since inscription, which have led to the erosion of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV); acknowledges the time required to develop the updated Management Plan, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop a comprehensive Action Plan, clearly outlining the implementation of past Committee decisions, the recommendations of the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and the ICOMOS Technical Reviews, as a stand-alone document, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in order to provide an agreed-to framework for the property's interim management;

7. Further notes that the 2022 mission highlighted that any further demolition of the historic urban fabric should be halted as a matter of urgency, and that current expropriation decisions should cease to be in effect;

8. Further reiterates its request that the State Party, informed by the outcomes of the 2024 ICOMOS Technical Review of the 2012, 2016 and 2020 iterations of the Suriçi District Conservation Development Implementation Plan:

    a) Re-evaluate the current development plans based on an evaluation of the status quo of the Suriçi District's built fabric and its contribution to the setting of the OUV of the property,

    b) Develop a draft update of the current development plans through an iterative Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) process aimed at delivering a Plan that strengthens the Suriçi District's contribution to the OUV as part of its setting,

    c) Submit the assessments, draft updated plans, and HIAs to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to the adoption of any irreversible decisions;

9. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, to assess the current state of conservation of the property, including:

    a) The conservation and management of the Hevsel Gardens,

    b) The actions undertaken to recover the contribution of the Ten Eyed Bridge and its setting to the OUV of the property,

    c) The proposals to reduce the impact of the Tigris Valley Recreation and Afforestation Project and of the Tourist Ring Road between Mardin and Dag Gates,

    d) The current management and development of the Suriçi District as the inner buffer zone,

    e) To make recommendations on the necessary actions to realign the conservation, management and development frameworks, plans and legal provisions governing the property with the maintenance of its OUV;

10. Finally requests 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, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property**

require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

130. Göbekli Tepe (Türkiye)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.130

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.203**, adopted at the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Acknowledges the State Party's intention to revise the Management Plan and related planning tools for the conservation of the property, and urges the State Party to limit further archaeological excavations and interventions in the property to urgent measures necessary for stabilising areas at risk of collapse and preventive maintenance, pending the finalisation and adoption of a comprehensive Conservation Plan and revised Management Plan;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to continue archaeological survey work as a basis for reassessing the level of statutory protection afforded to the buffer zone;
5. Welcomes the submission of a well-structured Visitor Management Plan, invites the State Party to consider the recommendations and conclusions of the forthcoming ICOMOS Technical Review, and recommends to the State Party to:
    a) Update the Plan's data during its review, particularly regarding the socio-economic survey of households and the results of focus groups reflecting local communities' interests and expectations,
    b) Ensure a more accurate reflection of the current local context and the evolving needs of both residents and visitors,
    c) Include mechanisms to ensure the effective engagement of diverse interest groups, particularly local communities, and
    d) Include a full Disaster Risk Management Plan, a comprehensive Accessibility Plan, a detailed framework for the proposed Visitor Monitoring and Evaluation programme and the operation of a real-time monitoring programme;
6. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to make use of the Enhancing Our Heritage 2.0 toolkit in the revision of the Management Plan, and stresses the urgency of expediting this process, particularly given that the previous Management Plan expired in 2022, and requests that the revised Management Plan should:
    a) Include a full Conservation Plan as the basis of a long-term conservation strategy, a disaster risk assessment and preparedness plan, and provisions for preventive maintenance, while integrating relevant elements of the Visitor Management Plan, including infrastructure and services to address the combined needs of conservation and increased tourism,
    b) Provide a clearly costed implementation framework for all plans, specifying required resources and funding sources, to ensure the sustained delivery of the proposed actions,
    c) Include a participation framework to enable the involvement of local communities in the management and conservation of the property, thereby supporting both the

property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the sustainable development of those communities,

d) Establish the baseline data and monitoring protocols, which are critical for adaptive management and evidence-based decision-making;

e) Include a visitor monitoring and evaluation component to guide sustainable tourism strategies;

7. Also requests to the State Party to submit the revised Management Plan, including an updated Visitor Management Plan, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and prior to its adoption;

8. Further requests the State Party to submit all relevant documentation including Heritage and/or Environmental Impact Assessments (HIAs/EIAs), as per the request of Decision **45 COM 7B.203**, regarding the revised railway line project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies well in advance of any decisions, to allow sufficient time for the review before any potentially irreversible actions are taken;

9. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to continue implementing amelioration measures to reduce the visual impact of the irrigation channel within the management area and south-east of the property, and requests furthermore to the State Party to formally abandon any future use of the existing quarry and prevent the establishment of new quarries;

10. Notes the State Party's confirmation that no major developments are currently planned, and reminds the State Party of its obligation to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course of any intention to undertake or authorise any such developments that may affect the OUV of the property and that such projects should be accompanied by HIAs, in accordance with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, respectively, prior to any decisions being made that could be difficult to reverse;

11. Finally requests 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.

131. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Türkiye)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.131

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2 and WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2.Corr.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.31**, **44 COM 7B.58** and **45 COM 7B.58**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Takes note of the results of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as well as the conclusions and recommendations contained in its report, and requests the State Party to implement them in full;

4. Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to establish a robust and multi-level system of governance for the protection of heritage, but notes with concern that the processes and mechanisms that contribute to the effective management of World Heritage properties, as set out in the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines, are not being systematically followed, urges the State Party to adopt comprehensive national

legislation for the protection of World Heritage and ensure that it takes precedence over other laws, and further urges the State Party to ensure full compliance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Strongly encourages the State Party to ensure that the property is managed in a more coherent and participatory manner, recognising that such an approach is essential to safeguarding its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

6. Further welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party to update the Management Plan for the property, in particular the work undertaken to enable inclusion of the attributes that convey the OUV of the property, invites the State Party to use this process to consider establishing a buffer zone for the property through a Minor Boundary Modification, and also requests the State Party to submit the proposed outline of attributes, along with the draft updated Management Plan, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to finalisation;

7. Further requests the State Party to provide regular and detailed updates on the development of the strategic plan for the conservation of wooden structures, in line with the Committee's previous repeated requests, to define a unified strategy for the conservation of timber structures across the entire property, to develop comprehensive programmes offering technical and financial assistance to owners and investors and to submit the draft strategic to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalisation;

8. Calls upon the State Party to submit the complete documentation of the Süleymaniye 2050 project and vision, including the revised Conservation Plan, Spatial Strategy Plan and Urban Design Guide, prior to finalisation and adoption, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and notes that failure to adhere to this review process could jeopardise key attributes that convey the OUV of the property;

9. Further requests the State Party to provide technical information concerning the new construction underway in the garden of the Chora (Kariye), to confirm whether the three mosaics covered by mechanical curtains will remain covered outside prayer times, to provide design details regarding the visiting conditions for worshippers and visitors, including information about any proposed entrance fee, to develop a Master Plan for the entire Chora area, in accordance with the Committee's previous repeated requests, and to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before they are finalised;

10. Requests furthermore the State Party to revise the Hagia Sophia Visitor Management Plan to align with the recommendations of the 2024 mission, to prepare an indoor temperature study to monitor air humidity over a period of at least one year, and to develop a Master Plan for the entire Hagia Sophia complex to regulate circulation, improve landscaping and create an archaeological garden for the recovered pieces, as repeatedly recommended by the Committee, and to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

11. Requests moreover the State Party to implement the ICOMOS Technical Review recommendations already provided for the Yedikule Fortress, the Abdi İpekçi Basketball Development Centre, the Kazliçeşme Yacht Marina and the Yenikapi Cruise Port, to suspend development of the cruise port until the Management Plan is finalised and to consider alternative locations, and to submit the revised Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Yedikule Gas House, and HIAs for the proposed Viewing Terrace and Multi-Purpose Complex in Zeytinburnu District and the Reconstruction of the Great Palace Mosaics Museum to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any irreversible decisions;

12. Also notes the large number of development/reconstruction/restoration and infrastructure projects proposed or in progress at the property and regrets that, despite

the Committee's repeated requests, completed project documentation and associated HIAs continue not to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in a timely manner and in accordance with paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and therefore also urges the State Party to conduct HIAs in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and based on the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* for all proposed projects that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, and to fully and consistently comply with the obligation under Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines to submit project documentation, including HIAs, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before irreversible decisions are made;

13. Reiterates its previous multiple requests for the State Party to prepare a comprehensive roadmap, including short and long-term strategies covering all projects which may have an impact on the OUV of the property, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, before any further irreversible decisions are taken, and requests moreover that the draft roadmap be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies no later than **1 February 2026**;

14. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in 2026 in order to review and assess the level of implementation of the recommendations of the 2024 mission, with particular focus on the property's legal framework and protection mechanisms, the state of conservation of the timber structures, including their protection and rehabilitation mechanisms, the state of conservation and visitor conditions of Hagia Sophia and the Chora, and whether the property is faced with threats that could have deleterious effects on its inherent characteristics;

15. Finally requests 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.

132. Wooden Hypostyle Mosques of Medieval Anatolia (Türkiye)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.132

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling its Decision **45 COM 8B.46** adopted at the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Recognises the efforts made by the State Party to enhance the state of conservation and management of the property, in particular the completion of an updated Conservation Plan and the ongoing work on a second, both of which include provisions for the protection not only of the component parts of the property but also of their respective buffer zones, and the establishment of a consolidated and extended Advisory Board and the creation of the sub-working groups to coordinate efforts across the serial property;

4. Recalls the previous concerns raised at the time of inscription, notes the progress made by the State Party in implementing some actions to address them, and further notes that several important requests remain at the planning stage or have yet to be fully implemented;

5. Requests the State Party to:

   a) Continue updating the outdated Conservation Plans for the component parts,

b) Complete and implement the outstanding proposals identified in the state of conservation report, in particular those related to the comprehensive documentation of all mosques following a common standard and the collection of baseline data for monitoring and management;

c) Continue controlling the factors affecting the property and, in particular, immediately address the threats common to all five component parts, including fire, insects, moisture and deterioration of settings,

d) Prioritise the development and implementation of carrying capacity studies to manage the potential impacts of increased tourism, and integrate these findings into the updated management strategies and Visitor Management Plans,

e) Complete and implement the Risk Management Plan for the serial property to address environmental, climatic, and human-induced threats, including strategies for monitoring and responding to unforeseen challenges,

f) Finalise the Maintenance Manual for the property, tailored to both the regular maintenance team and mosque officials, ensuring that it is in line with international standards and practices, and implement capacity building activities to ensure appropriate maintenance practices,

g) Implement the priority actions identified by the Scientific Committee and the extended Advisory Board to ensure that the attributes underlying the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are safeguarded and that its conditions of authenticity and integrity are maintained;

h) Develop clear indicators using the resource manual *Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0* to better assess and monitor the implementation of the Management Plan;

6. Appreciates the State Party's cautious decision to halt the cable car project and encourages the State Party to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property to ascertain the impacts and to suggest alternatives, if any, that appear feasible and consistent with the attributes underlying the property's OUV and the role of the setting in protecting these attributes.

7. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.133

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 8B.50**, **36 COM 7B.94**, **37 COM 7**, **37 COM 7B.89, 39 COM 7B.86, 41 COM 7B.54, 44 COM 7B.60** and **45 COM 7B.204**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006), 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Reiterating its position that mineral exploration or exploitation is incompatible with World Heritage status, which is supported by the International Council of Mining and Metals'

(ICMM) Position Statement of not undertaking such activities within World Heritage properties,

4. Welcomes the ongoing efforts of the World Heritage Site (WHS) Partnership, and other agencies to support the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the ongoing efforts made for increased interpretation, research and stakeholder engagement across the property;

5. Welcomes also the submission of revised plans for the Hilltop area at North Quay, which respond to the recommendations provided by ICOMOS over an extended period, and takes note with satisfaction that this element of the Hayle Harbour project is now consistent with the conservation of the setting of the property and the relevant attributes which support its OUV;

6. Acknowledges the information package provided by the State Party on the South Crofty Mine, and notes that the mine had progressively received the necessary permits for extraction with environmental conditions approved prior to inscription in 2006, planning consent for surface workings in 2011, extension of underground workings in 2013, and water extraction permit in 2017;

7. Requests the State Party to provide maps of the scope and extent of the approved mining activities and information on how they relate to the property boundaries;

8. Notes that the property comprises the most authentic and historically important component parts of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape dating principally from 1700 to 1914 and that the State Party agrees that in a mining cultural landscape, both above and underground remains are inextricably linked and that both should be appraised for potential impact on attributes of the property which support its OUV;

9. Notes furthermore that at the time of inscription, it was stressed that any resumption of mining should ensure that 'the values associated with early steam technologies are not harmed', and further considers that mining development using new technologies must be separately assessed for potential impacts on OUV;

10. Requests the State Party to consider a modification of the boundaries of the property to ensure that areas proposed for resumption of commercial mining are removed from the property prior to any resumption of mining;

11. Requests the State Party to engage in dialogue with the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre and 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.

134. Derwent Valley Mills (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.134

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.61** and **46 COM 7B.17**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th session (New Delhi, 2024), respectively,

3. Acknowledges the commitment of the State Party to implement the World Heritage Committee's previous requests and the recommendations of the 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission, in particular to address the development pressures and cumulative impacts that were identified as harming the

Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and welcomes the rejection of the 'Amber Rock' development;

4. Encourages the State Party to continue the discussions with stakeholders to further explore possible revisions to the consented 'Landmark' project and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any possible progress, and further welcomes the State Party's intention to notify the World Heritage Centre on the redevelopment plans of the Babington Hospital once available;

5. Welcomes that the State Party submitted the amended proposals for 'Full Street' and 'Bradshaw Way', the latter now considered as adequate by ICOMOS, and therefore urges the State Party to ensure that all revised proposals, including for 'Eagle Quarter' are submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to any decisions being made that would be difficult to reverse;

6. Notes with concern the poor state of conservation of the Belper Mill complex, also welcomes the development of the Belper Mills Development Masterplan as a study of alternative options, understands that the pending live applications for the Belper Mills complex must be determined before alternative proposals can be considered, also urges the State Party to expedite the decision-making process after further iteration and completion of the supporting Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by the applicant, and requests the State Party to take into account the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Reviews of June 2023 and April 2025 as appropriate;

7. Further welcomes the State Party's commitment to refine the 2026-2031 Management Plan to include all necessary HIAs, cumulative impact assessments, and risk management strategies, and urges the State Party to continue to ensure that the current management and legal framework provides sufficient safeguards for the OUV of the property;

8. Takes note of the updates to the Local Plans and the improved coordination with local authorities, reiterates its previous request that draft plans and relevant HIAs be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to their adoption and encourages the submission of other newly developed key policy and planning documents for review prior to their adoption;

9. Further notes that the State Party considers that using live datasets instead of a fixed baseline to assess cumulative impacts, provides a comprehensive overview of past and long-term cumulative impacts on OUV, systematically comparing less impactful alternatives to ensure a precautionary approach and safeguard the property's OUV;

10. Also welcomes the development of an Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2024 Advisory Mission and the 2023-2024 Key Monitoring Indicators report and invites the State Party to set clear timelines for the implementation of planned actions;

11. Encourages the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to continue to appropriately select projects which may affect the property's OUV for submission to the World Heritage Centre prior to any decisions being made that would be difficult to reverse;

12. Finally requests 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, **considering that the conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilisation to preserve its OUV**.

135. Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.135

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.4,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.94, 44 COM 7B.161** and **45 COM 7B.205** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the reported progress in updating the Management Plan, reviewing the London View Management Framework and the London Plan, and the State Party's commitment to the submission of these and other forthcoming plans and documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before their adoption and encourages the State Party to expedite the identification of the attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the finalisation of the draft Management Plan;
4. Notes the ongoing periodic inspections and conservation activities, as well as the efforts to reduce the environmental impact of the operations of the buildings within the property and recommends that impact assessment procedures be applied to deliver project options that are fully aligned with the maintenance of the property's OUV;
5. Also welcomes the proposal to develop a framework for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the Restoration and Renewal project of the Palace of Westminster and the State Party's commitment to submit it the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as well the intention to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the Parliament Square Streetscape Project should the proposals progress beyond the concept stage;
6. Reiterates its strong support for the concept of a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London, but recalls again its serious concerns that the proposed location in the Victoria Tower Gardens and its current design would have a significant adverse impact on the OUV of the property, and therefore, urges the State Party to refrain from enabling the current proposal to proceed at this site, and, should the Holocaust Memorial Bill be adopted, to identify alternative, less impactful designs and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to any further planning applications by the local authorities;
7. Further notes that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act only refers to 'the desirability of preserving or enhancing' a World Heritage property or its setting, and provides for exemptions of certain planning mechanisms from these provisions, and requests the State Party to ensure that the obligation of maintaining the OUV of World Heritage properties, including the contribution of their settings, is appropriately embedded in national and local planning and legal frameworks, including through a revision of the City Plan 2040 for the City of London;
8. Further encourages the State Party to augment the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under the London Plan by including indicators specific to World Heritage properties and their settings, and to uphold its monitoring efforts;
9. Regrets that approval has been granted for the Royal Street site development contrary to the Committee's previous requests, and further requests the State Party to reconsider the approval in light of its potential impact on OUV, or to explore and submit alternative designs that significantly reduce visual impacts to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;

10. Also regrets that the Committee's decisions were not taken into account in the approval process of the Evelina Children's Hospital expansion, further notes that the hospital is reassessing its plans due to evolving financial and service-related factors, and also encourages the State Party to ensure that any revised proposals give full consideration to the property's OUV and are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any further irreversible decisions are made;

11. Reiterates its request for a detailed study of the assets of the area south of the property in its immediate setting and their relationship to its OUV, and further urges the State Party to refrain from further planning or project approvals in this area until such studies have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies, and recalls that that adverse impacts on OUV cannot be offset by other benefits, in line with established HIA guidance in World Heritage contexts;

12. Further requests the State Party to provide an update with details on the implementation of the 23 recommendations from the 2017 mission in its next report on the state of conservation of the property;

13. 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.

136. The English Lake District (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.136

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 8B.30** and **45 COM 7B.63**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Acknowledges the State Party's continued progress in addressing private vehicular traffic in the property, integrating Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) concerns into the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, and in monitoring water quality in Lake Windermere, and encourages the State Party to uphold its efforts;

4. Welcomes the development of an Interpretation Strategy and recommends its formal integration into the management system to guide the approach and priorities of the Partnership Management Plan, the Lake District National Park Authority's (LDNPA), the Lake District Historic Environment Strategy and the Destination Management Plan, and the assessment of leisure facilities and projects to ensure that public enjoyment supports OUV;

5. Recognises efforts to provide affordable housing and recommends limiting new construction to meet residents' needs, thereby reducing the proportion of holiday homes to avoid further erosion of the rural landscape and character, and further welcomes the revisions to the property-tax policies aimed at limiting second homes;

6. Regrets that the Elterwater Quarry project was approved in 2024 contrary to the Committee's recommendation to suspend it pending the development and approval of an OUV-based Interpretation Strategy, notes that it is currently under judicial review, and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any final decisions;

7. Strongly regrets that the Honister Zip-wire project commenced under the original permit despite prior Committee requests to halt works, notes with concern that the local authority approved a revised application in March 2025 without prior review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS and recalls its request that the State Party pursue all possible avenues to resolve this issue, including avoiding construction of this infrastructure or developing mitigation measures to counteract any negative impacts on the property's OUV;

8. Expresses concern that a clear OUV-led vision to guide prioritisation of forms of enjoyment that sustain the property's OUV remains to be established and underlines that while visitors may be welcomed, not all uses and leisure activities may be appropriate to support the property's OUV and its appreciation;

9. Takes note of the planned monitoring programme for recreational vehicle use on unsealed roads but considers the nine-year timeframe excessive, requests intensified monitoring with annual assessments on selected roads and a review within three years, and, in the interim, further requests experimental restrictions on the most sensitive and traffic-prone green lanes among those located in the most emblematic valleys using existing legal provisions;

10. Expresses its utmost concern that the hefting system for sheep flocks, a pivotal attribute of the OUV of the property, which has shaped this pastoral landscape and contributed to its scenic and harmonious beauty, is reported as compromised;

11. Urges again the State Party to devise, fund, and implement a targeted, coherent, long-term strategy, developed through broad consultation with key local actors, to halt and reverse the decline of the traditional agropastoral system, further requests that this strategy be integrated into the forthcoming Partnership Plan, in line with integrated and sustainable approaches to cultural landscape stewardship that support the socio-economic viability of long-standing farming practices, safeguard long-term environmental quality, and enhance resilience to climate change, and also requests the State Party to submit this strategy to the World Heritage Centre for review by Advisory Bodies;

12. Finally requests 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.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

137. Quebrada de Humahuaca (Argentina)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.137

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.105** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Notes with satisfaction that the recommended ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was undertaken in June 2023 and encourages the State Party to implement its recommendations;

4. Also notes with satisfaction the finalization of the Management Plan for the property as well as the inclusive process conducive to its establishment;

5. Welcomes the finalization of the Heritage Impact Assessment and of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Jujuy-La Quiaca train project and invites the State Party to address the recommendations made in the ICOMOS Technical Review of June 2024;

6. Take notes of the finalization of the Risk Management Plan for one of the locations of the Quebrada de Humahuaca (Volcán) and encourages the State Party to develop Risk Management Plans for the entire property, within the governance structure led by the Provincial Directorate of Water Resources;

7. Also welcomes the information provided on the activities developed at the Rio Grande linked to the construction of the Water Basin Management Plan of the Province of Jujuy, requests that full documentation on the "Comadres Program" and on its action to mitigate the negative effects possibly emerging in summer seasons, and to protect and maintain the use of soil and water, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and recalls that the projects foreseen at the Rio Grande should also be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for technical review, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before works commence or any irreversible decision is made;

8. Further welcomes the actions of the State Party to address urban growth through participatory management, and the creation of a team of researchers and site managers trained to address management needs;

9. Recommends to the State Party to strengthen the adequate articulation between the authorities of the three levels of government in the framework of the Management Plan of the property;

10. Finally requests 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 Advisories Bodies.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.138

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.106** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2024),

3. Commends 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. Encourages 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;

5. 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. Notes 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;

7. Also welcomes 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 requests 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 requests 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. Further requests 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. Finally requests 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.

139. Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture (Bolivia, plurinational state of)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.139

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.107** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to implement the Management Plan and Conservation Plan carried out by the Archaeological, Anthropological and Administration Research Centre of Tiwanaku (CIAAAT), urges the State Party to include the Heritage Impact Assessment tools in the regulatory and management framework of the property as a priority; requests the State Party to submit an updated report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Management and Conservation Plans including the results of the activities involving the community and stakeholders, and also urges the State Party to complete the Risk Management Plan and submit it to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it becomes available;

4. Also requests the State Party to submit the updated report related to the limits of the property and its buffer zone as a priority, and to formally submit a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with Paragraph 163 of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Regrets that the proposed agreement on the control of the buffer zone as proposed by CIAAAT has not be signed by the municipality, and further urges the State Party to establish adequate and effective coordination mechanisms between CIAAAT and the Municipality of Tiwanaku as stipulated in paragraph 6 of Decision **45 COM 7B.107**;

6. Notes with satisfaction the new internal procedures and protocols developed by CIAAAT, and further requests the State Party to submit updated information on the monitoring of their implementation and results;

7. Notes with concern the budgetary restrictions linked to the application of Supreme Decree 1004, and encourages the State Party to give a solution to provide the necessary human and financial resources to CIAAAT to comply with its functions and the implementation of the Management Plan;

8. Commends the State Party for its efforts to apply for external funds to implement actions of the Management Plan, and further requests the State Party to provide updated information on the results of such efforts;

9. Finally requests 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.

140. Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso (Chile)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.140

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.111** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Takes note of the finalization of the Technical Cooperation with the the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in 2021 and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information on the approval, legal adoption and implementation of the governance model and the roadmap proposal, and a report on the Sustainable Patrimonialisation Process;

4. Further encourages the State Party to continue implementing the Collaboration Agreement between the Municipality of Valparaiso and the Undersecretariat of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Cultures, Arts and Heritage, and submit to the World Heritage Centre a report on the corresponding results;

5. Also takes note of the detailed information provided by the State Party on the sessions of the Municipal Corporation for the Administration of the Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaiso World Heritage Site, and requests the State Party to continue to report to the World Heritage Centre on the activities of the Municipal Corporation;

6. Welcomes the submission of the Integrated Disaster Risk Management Plan for review;

7. Commends the State Party on the establishment of Regional Heritage Directorates of the National Monuments Council under the National Cultural Heritage Service, including the Valparaiso Regional Directorate, with a view to strengthen technical teams;

8. Notes the ongoing efforts to resume the Parque Barón Project halted in 2022 by means of a new tender published in July 2024 with bids currently under evaluation, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated report on this project;

9. Takes note of the ongoing implementation of the important restoration, conservation and recovery programme within the property, and requests detailed information on its implementation progress;

10. Welcomes the new project mitigation measure for the landscape component of the Terminal 2 Extension Project by means of an Addendum to the Environmental Qualifications Resolution, submitted in June 2024 and currently under evaluation, and urges the State Party to submit an updated report;

11. Commends the State Party on the ongoing implementation of the Agreement for Valparaiso as a roadmap to foster and develop participatory synergies among the main stakeholders concerned with port accessibility and port-city interaction, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre information on the progress towards definitions at architectural project level for design development of the Port Center in Muelle Prat, a use defined for Bodega Simón Bolívar, a Strategic Plan for the Coastal Zone, and the Port Expansion Project;

12. Also commends the State Party for its commitment to continue implementing the recommendations of the 2022 Advisory mission;

13. Also requests that a technical report on the 7 May fire be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, including rehabilitations options and possible implications in terms of risk preparedness strategies for the property;

14. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.141

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.109** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to implement the Management Plan with an emphasis on inclusiveness and building community awareness and requests the State Party to submit an updated report on the implementation of the Management Plan, including the results of the activities involving the community and stakeholders, as well as on the establishment and functioning of the integrated monitoring system;

4. Notes with concern that the illegal settlement at Component 03 ‘Desembocadura de Camarones’ continues to grow in population, even if it has not expanded significantly in area coverage and requests the State Party to consider implementing the recommendations of the report ‘Diagnostic of Archaeological Impact in the Southern Terrace of the mouth of Camarones River’;

5. Reiterates its concern on the health noncompliance with current regulations by the poultry farms and further urges the State Party to enforce them;

6. Requests information on the update project of the 'Arica Communal Regulatory Plan' and urges the State Party to include the implementation of Heritage Impact Assessment tools into the regulatory and management framework of this World Heritage property as a priority;

7. Also requests an updated report on the pending review, approval and implementation of the relocation plan for the illegal settlement in Component 03, expected to be relocated outside the buffer zone;

8. Further requests the State Party to provide the following information:

   a) Updated report on the clarification of the legal status of Component 03 and the systematization of geographic information on the land polygons that integrate the World Heritage property,

   b) The status of the declaration of Component 03 and its buffer zone, as 'Historic Monument and Typical Zone',

   c) Information on the direct contract by the Ministry of Public Works to resume the construction of the 'San Miguel de Azapa Anthropological Museum';

9. Welcomes the finalization of the emergency works to stabilize the open excavations at Camarones 14 and Camarones Conchal Sur in Component 03 in October 2023;

10. Finally requests 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.

142. Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.142

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.112** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the continuing implementation of the Special Management and Protection Plan (PEMP) for the Walled Enclosure and San Felipe Castle (PEMP-MURCA), encourages the State Party to continue with these efforts, and requests it to report on the conservation criteria and methodology utilized by the Cartagena de Indias Workshop School for the preventive and corrective maintenance, especially interventions on the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value;

4. Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party towards finalizing the PEMP for the Historic Urban Complex (PEMP-CH) and the PEMP for the Fortified Cultural Landscape of Cartagena de Indias (PEMP-FORT BAHIA), regrets that these documents have not been approved yet, and urges once again the State Party to approve these documents as a priority and enable their implementation;

5. Commends the State Party for its commitment towards interinstitutional cooperation on the drafting of the PEMP-CH and also requests the State Party to report on the projects of the Tourism Secretariat for the Historic Centre aligned with sustainable cultural tourism;

6. Notes with appreciation the continuous efforts of the State Party to coordinate efforts of institutions and the private sector to improve the PEMPs' development and implementation, and also encourages the State Party to continue its commendable

efforts to devise and implement mechanisms to develop clear public policies that align with urban development in consultation with all stakeholders;

7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit an up-to-date map of the property as inscribed in 1984 and, in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, a Minor Boundary Modification request to define the buffer zone(s);

8. Also welcomes the dismantling of the Aquarela Project, requests again the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the proposals for the restitution of the public space and further requests the State Party to report on the conservation and urban policies preserving visual corridors and views for the management of the property in relationship with its wider setting as part of the Minor Boundary Modification request, for the buffer zone(s) and their management;

9. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.143

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.113** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Commends 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. Regrets 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 encourages the State Party to reach an agreement among the relevant parties and stakeholders and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed;

5. Notes with satisfaction the restructuring of the Disaster Preparedness and Risk Management Plans, now better focusing on World Heritage values;

6. Notes that the consolidation of the administrative unit remains incomplete and also requests again that the consolidated and multidisciplinary management unit for the property be established;

7. Also requests 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. Also notes that the HIA for a hydroelectric project could not be finalized as the project remains indefinitely halted;

9. Also commends the State Party for the comprehensive workplan for the property and its implementation, and invites it to further develop the activities therein;

10. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.144

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 8B.43**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Commends 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. Notes with appreciation that the ADN will prepare a Master Plan for the historical city and requests 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. Welcomes 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 encourages 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. Also encourages 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. Further notes the advances in the conservation works in the urban ensemble and individual historical monuments and the improvement of visitor facilities including museum upgrades, and reiterates its request 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;
9. 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. Regrets 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 urges 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. Requests 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. Finally requests 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.

145. National Archaeological Park Tak'alik Ab'aj (Guatemala)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.145

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.25**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Expresses its deep appreciation for the progress in the legal protection of the property through a set of measures involving a large number of stakeholders to enhance the effective enforcement of the Law for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of the Nation;
4. Notes with satisfaction the effective strengthening of the involvement of civil society, youth, communities, indigenous peoples and non-governmental actors in preventive and conservation measures through numerous activities, commends the State Party for its significant effort in this area and encourages it to continue its outreach and engagement strategy;
5. Also notes with satisfaction the accomplished and ongoing efforts to ensure stronger budgetary stability for the property, and requests the State Party to continue its work to consolidate and ensure the human and financial resources needed for the effective management and conservation of the property;
6. Further notes with appreciation the intention to update of the Management Plan, Visitor Monitoring and Management Plan and Risk Management Plan in 2025 as well the close monitoring of potential threats and further request the State Party to submit these plans, once available, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Finally requests 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.

146. National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers (Haiti)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.146

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.33**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Notes the continued complex internal circumstances in the State Party and that it has been difficult for the State Party to advance in the implementation of planned management and conservation actions;
4. Regrets that the preparation of the Management Plan and the definition of the buffer zone experienced continued delays and could not be completed by January 2025 as planned, urges the State Party to prioritise these actions so that the Management Plan

and the Minor Boundary Modification for the delimitation of the buffer zone will be finalised by the end of January 2026, and requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of its progress;

5. Commends the State Party on its allocation of funds for the Development, Restoration and Conservation of Heritage Sites under the 2024-2025 National Investment Budget and that it has continued the preparation of interventions for the conservation and public use of the Palace of Sans Souci, the Chapel of Milot and the Citadel;

6. Welcomes that a feasibility and environmental impact assessment on option 2 of the RN003, which is the alternative route of the road to the east of the park, was completed through the Bureau Ordonnateur National (BON) and financed by the European Union, and requests the State Party to make this study available for evaluation, as soon as possible, by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies along the parameters set out in paragraphs 6–9 of Decision **45 COM 7B.33**;

7. Reiterates the urgent need for a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission already requested in Decision **45 COM 7B.33**, to be organized as soon as possible in the security context of the country, in order to:

   a) Advise the State Party on:

   b) The necessity and means to improve the section of the road through the park as a Park Road, in ways that mitigate the highly adverse impacts of the current proposals as identified by the Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments that the State Party already has undertaken,

   c) Ways of progressing as a matter of urgency the deviation of the RN003 to the east of the park (option 2),

   d) Assess the reasons for delays in the finalization of essential tools for the good management and conservation of the property, such as the definition of the buffer zone and the finalization of the conservation and management plans;

8. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.147

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling 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. Notes 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. Requests 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. Takes 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;

6. Also requests more information on the projects that can have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and reminds 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, and further reminds 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. Also takes note also of the implementation of the Plan for the Sustainable Recovery of the Cultural Landscape of the Archaeological Site, and requests information on the evaluation of this Plan;

8. Welcomes 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. Recommends 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 further requests a report on the advances of this process;

10. Also welcomes 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. Notes with appreciation 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. Further requests 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. Finally requests 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.

148. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.148

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.117** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Regrets that the High-Capacity Segregated Corridor (COSAC) was executed while no appropriate Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was undertaken, notes that the Municipal Programme for the Recovery of the Historic Centre of Lima (PROLIMA) is preparing a project to mitigate the impact of COSAC in the historic centre and to improve pedestrian

mobility, and requests the State Party to submit the mitigation project to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as it becomes available, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

4. Stresses that interventions within the boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zones should be authorised by the bodies that have responsibility for their conservation and management, and notes that HIAs were prepared for the preparatory works in the area where the central station and ventilation shafts of metro Line 2 will be constructed and that cultural objects such as statues and monuments have been temporarily relocated;

5. Also notes that PROLIMA submitted a project to the Ministry of Culture to incorporate the infrastructure of metro Line 2 in the urban environment and requests the State Party to transmit this project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Welcomes the Rimac River Special Landscape Project along the trajectory of the Linea Amarilla road and also requests the State Party to consider the conclusions and recommendations that may result from the Technical Review by ICOMOS;

7. Further notes that, to date, the relevant authorities have not received a new project for the cable car on Cerro Cristobal and that a HIA, which should be done in conformity with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, will be requested for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies;

8. Commends the State Party for the actions it has undertaken for the implementation of the Master Plan, among other matters the approval of street profiles and the continuity in the pedestrianisation of historical areas, the establishment of a Cultural Heritage Risk Management unit and the execution of archaeological interventions and restoration projects;

9. Also welcomes the confirmation that PROLIMA has become the management authority of the property and that it is operating in an efficient manner; however, this notwithstanding, recalls its previous recommendations that an autonomous management authority be established and that a Management Plan be prepared, and further requests the State Party to inform the Committee of the mandate and functioning of the inter-sectorial commission established under Law 31184 of 2021;

10. Notes furthermore that the project for the recuperation of the square of San Francisco remains halted pending the judicial process and reiterates its request that the State Party review the project in light of the recommendations of the Technical Review of March 2022, in particular regarding the fences around the square;

11. Notes moreover that ICOMOS issued a Technical Review in January 2025 regarding the project to recover public space in the Plaza de Armas, and further requests the State Party to consider its conclusions and recommendations and to inform the World Heritage Centre accordingly;

12. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.149

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.119** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes 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 requests the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre the details of PURP II for information;

4. Encourages the State Party to finalize and implement the next Management Plan (2024-2028) within PURP II and requests the State Party to send this Plan to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review by the Advisory Bodies;

5. Notes with appreciation 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. Also welcomes 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 further requests 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. Welcomes with appreciation 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 requests 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 further urges 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. Notes 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. Also notes with concern 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. Also notes with serious concern the recent loss of five heritage buildings due to fire, encourages the State Party to improve risk preparedness measures and invites 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. 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, **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.**

150. Jodensavanne Archaeological Site: Jodensavanne Settlement and Cassipora Creek Cemetery (Suriname)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.150

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.50**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Commends the State Party for securing sufficient donor funding for the management conservation of the site and urges the State Party to secure additional funding for the operational costs of the site and to establish a stable and sustainable financial plan for the continuous long-term management and conservation of the site;

4. Notes that the establishment of a Special Protected Forest Zone has not been achieved due to the land not being State-owned and encourages the State Party to identify an alternative protection method for the area concerned;

5. Welcomes the database of archaeological finds and their future mapping, as well as the future plans for a web-based digital archaeological archive;

6. Also encourages the State Party to continue working on quantitative indicators to measure the state of conservation of the property, in the context of a monitoring system which should include information on environmental factors that affect the remains;

7. Also notes that under the 'Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Program' (PURP II), funded by the Inter-American Development Bank, the creation of a commercialization strategy including a business plan for the self-sustainability of the property, a marketing strategy, and a digital archaeological archive will be undertaken, and that a risk preparedness

plan, a land-use plan, and a carrying capacity study will also be elaborated in 2025, and requests the State Party to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies once they are completed;

8. Notes with appreciation that the State Party has engaged with local stakeholders, volunteers, as well as local and indigenous community members in managing and promoting the property, and is undertaking research on cultural exchange between different groups who lived together in Jodensavanne, and further encourages the State Party to continue these activities;

9. Further notes that archaeological research must be undertaken regarding the Cassipora Creek Settlement and further encourages the State Party to complete this research and submit a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre;

10. Further encourages the State Party to establish whether the archaeological remains, located during pipe laying excavations at Jodensavanne in September 2024 belong to the military Post Gelderland and, if they are located within the boundaries of the established property, requests the State Party to submit the updated list of attributes of the existing property (including photos and maps of the remains, in relation to the existing property boundaries) to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

11. Reminds the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre before undertaking or authorising all major projects, which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

12. Finally notes the monitoring of trees to ensure the conservation of the site and further encourages the State Party to take preventive measures to avoid damage to historic structures by falling trees;

13. Finally requests 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 Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

AFRICA

151. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.151

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.34**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the details provided so far on the execution of the museum project, including excavations of the site within the Court of the Amazons;

4. Notes that the museum plans now include a large landscaped garden in front of the proposed museum building with palm trees and 12 bronze statues depicting Amazons, recalls its request that the museum should not diminish the authenticity of the Royal Palaces and that the Court should continue to be intelligible as a large ceremonial open space; considers that as currently planned the garden would be out of keeping with the Court's primary function and requests the State Party to greatly simplify the garden plans so as to ensure the palaces' dominance and to submit these plans for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

5. Further requests the State Party to provide the remaining requested details of the surface treatment of the Amazon Court, functional links between the different spaces, visitor access, as well as a detailed project implementation timetable;

6. Also notes that Phase 1of the rehabilitation programme covering the four Royal Palaces of Ghezo, Glélé, Béhanzin, and Agoli Agbo will shortly go out to tender, and greatly welcomes confirmation that a Phase 2 in 2026 will cover the remaining six Palaces of Houegbadja, Akaba, Agadja, Tegbessou, Kpengla, and Agonglo, as it has long been requested that the ten palaces should be conserved, managed and perceived as a single entity;

7. Reiterates it requests for a detailed recovery and conservation plan to be provided for all 184 components mentioned in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in order to set out a documented conservation approach and outcomes, as well as how modifications related to appropriate uses for individual buildings will respect OUV, in the light of proposed refunctionalisation of the further six palaces, before the start of rehabilitation work and, requests that this plan is submitted for review to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before it becomes operational;

8. Further notes that an Interim Management Plan will be in place for the duration of the Museum project 2025-2026, to be followed by a Revised Management Plan for 2027-2031, stresses the need for a comprehensive management of the property which integrates the palaces with the new museum, gives priority to the preservation of OUV, and includes comprehensive risk and disaster management plans, and urges the State Party to start work as soon as possible on this overall plan so that it is functional when the museum project is completed;

9. While noting that an agreement has been signed between the National Agency Touristic Heritage (ANPT), the Abomey and Region Tourist Office and the Benin Tourism Agency to mobilise the support of political and administrative authorities, royal families, local populations, youth, the media and development associations for the rehabilitation and enhancement of the property, and that consultations are being undertaken with stakeholders to address illegal settlements, stresses the need for such collaboration to be underpinned by agreed policies in the Management Plan;

10. Notes with regret that despite the extension until end of 2027 of the UNESCO-Benin Framework Agreement, originally signed in 2017, the large-scale project dedicated to "Strengthening, safeguarding and promoting tangible and intangible cultural and historical heritage" proposed under that agreement for an amount of USD 4,85 million, has still not been officially approved by the State Party, and encourages the State Party to consider approval of this project as soon as possible in order to provide valuable capacity-building for professionals involved in the protection and promotion of the property;

11. Finally, requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.152

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.112**, **44 COM 7B.122**, **45 COM 7B.133** and **45 COM 8B.7** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019) and at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,

3. Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the States Parties of Togo and Benin in the conservation of the transboundary property of Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba, in particular the actions undertaken to restore the sikien, pass on traditional skills, mobilize and train communities, reforest and develop detailed mapping of the Benin part, and encourages their long-term consolidation and harmonization through transboundary initiatives;

4. Commends the initiatives undertaken by the State Party of Togo, in particular the restoration of 42 sikien in 2024, the training of young craftsmen, community awareness-raising, and the documentation of activities at the village level, and encourages their continuation on a regular basis, ensuring that they are thoroughly and systematically documented;

5. Notes the discrepancies in the data on the number of sikien inventoried and urges the State Party of Togo to conduct a thorough analysis of available sources in order to determine an accurate and consolidated reference number for the inventory of sikien, and to assess the state of conservation of the identified attributes of the property in accordance with the requirements for monitoring the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);

6. Also notes that the 2022-2024 Management Plan has come to an end and that its implementation rate has been limited, and reiterates its request to the State Party of Togo to provide Koutammakou Conservation and Promotion Service (Service de Conservation et de Promotion du Koutammakou - SCPK) with adequate human, technical and financial resources, including an autonomous operating budget, to ensure effective management of the property;

7. Notes with concern that the Management Committee for the property, established by Ministerial Decree No./MC/CAB of March 2004, still lacks an implementing decree and rules of procedure, and strongly encourages the State Party of Togo to adopt these instruments without delay to ensure a clear governance framework in line with the requirements of the Convention;

8. Expresses its concern about urban expansion in Nadoba and the lack of assessment of its impact on the property's OUV, and encourages the State Party of Togo to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, including the development of indicators to monitor the potential effects of this pressure on the attributes of the property;

9. Notes with regret that the construction of the Nadoba Town Hall was undertaken without prior notification to the World Heritage Centre and that the concept and form of the building, inspired by traditional sikien architecture and integrating the cultural landscape of the site, initially submitted by the State Party of Togo to the donors, have been rejected, and encourages the State Party to submit a visual impact study, including an analysis of the planned mitigation measures, namely the construction of a takienta in front of the building, and to notify any future projects that may have an impact on the property's OUV, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Invites the State Party of Togo to finalize and implement the Local Urban Plan (Plan Local d'Urbanisme - PLU) for Kéran 3, incorporating the provisions of the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, to develop specifications for the typologies, architectural forms and materials that may be used in a way that is compatible with the property and its OUV, and recommends the adoption of more restrictive regulations to regulate interventions at the Koutammakou site and prohibit any unauthorized projects, in addition to Letter No. 0147/MCTL/CAB/SG/DPPCT of 20 March 2007 relative to respect for architecture and urban planning at the site;

11. Encourages the State Party of Benin to finalize and implement the municipal decrees currently being drafted to regulate modern construction, in addition to the national protection framework, and to develop specifications defining the types, materials, and construction techniques compatible with the property's OUV, ensuring consistency with the specifications developed for Togo, in order to guarantee harmonized and coherent management of the transboundary property;

12. Also recommends that the State Party of Togo revise the 2024 feasibility study for the Koutammakou site enhancement project to ensure that it is based on the property's OUV, in order to guarantee that any proposal is fully compatible with its authenticity and integrity;

13. Welcomes the identification of ten sikien under deterioration in Benin and the announced rehabilitation projects, while stressing the need to ensure respect for traditional techniques, with thorough technical monitoring and adequate documentation;

14. Also welcomes the joint meeting held in Boukoumbé in August 2024 between the two States Parties with a view to setting up the transnational property management body, and urges that this body be formalized, adequately resourced, and that a transnational management plan be developed and adopted as soon as possible, in accordance with Decision **45 COM 8B.7**;

15. Finally requests the two 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.153

The World Heritage Committee,

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. Notes with appreciation 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. Notes also the scale of the rehabilitation work to be carried out and the various challenges associated with promotion and enhancement, and encourages 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. Welcomes 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 urges the State Party to inform it of the progress made in its next report;

6. Also encourages 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 calls 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. Takes note 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 also requests 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 further requests the State Party to provide details on the development projects envisaged at the N'zima village and the western jetty of the mouth;

9. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.154

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.4**, and **45 COM 7B.124**, adopted at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online,2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Welcomes submission of a revised version of the 2017 Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) by the State Party and the proposed recommendations it includes, even though the full data upon which it is based has not been provided, acknowledges the conclusion of the HIA that that there is no direct impact on the property from the first three parts of the overall Kuraz Sugar Development Project (KSDP) that is Kuraz I, II and III, as they are between 100 and 175 kilometres distance from the property, and are on land which is not historically or archaeologically sensitive; and encourages the State Party to

continue the dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies on the implementation of its recommendations following its revision;

4. Notes that the HIA also considers that the site of Kuraz V, where development is currently halted, lies in an area of paleoanthropological importance that has a linear link with the Kibish Formation; and that there is need to more clearly define the scope of fossil bearing areas and how they relate to those within the boundaries, as suggested by the Committee in 2014, and as recommended by the first HIA in 2017;

5. Expresses concern that the HIA also acknowledges that the overall KSDP would have irreversible and long-lasting consequences on part of the setting of the property;

6. Notes with appreciation the ongoing work to develop large-scale maps of the Lower Valley of the Omo, reiterates the importance of an assessment of fossil-bearing sediments in the setting of the property to better define areas of potential archaeological importance and how they relate to those within the property, and requests the State Party to submit these maps for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they are finalized, together with evidence from surveys upon which they are based and related protection and management proposals;

7. Commends the State Party for revising the HIA but notes a discrepancy in the information and the lack of detailed evidence to substantiate the report; and requests the State Party to supplement the information provided in the revised HIA with details of prior archaeological and paleontological research, the desktop study, field survey and consulting sessions that underpinned its conclusions;

8. Requests the State Party to clarify the information regarding the distance between the Kuraz V project and the property's component and provide details of relevant survey and research regarding possible impact during the Kuraz V's building phase in Nyangatom Woreda, particularly from earthworks and waste water discharges from the sugarcane plantations, that could disturb and pollute subterranean deposit containing possible fossil remains, and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies details of proposed measures for impact mitigation to address these risks during the building and operating phases of Kuraz V;

9. Regrets that the revised Management Plan that integrates feedback provided by the Advisory Bodies in 2019 has not been received for review and requests the State Party to submit the updated Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies; and to reactivate the Steering Committee to monitor the project's overall plans, implementation and through impact assessments as recommended in the HIA;

10. Notes the State Party's intention to continue its dialogue with the State Party of Kenya on the execution of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to evaluate the potential impacts of the Gibe III dam and KSDP on the Lake Turkana basin, as requested by the Committee since 2012, and encourages the State Party to pursue this dialogue through the established mechanism of Joint Technical Experts Panel (JTEP) for this purpose;

11. Finally requests 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.

155. Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.155

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.105**, **44 COM 7B.118 and 45 COM 7B.35** adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party on its effort to undertake a series of restoration interventions at the property based on a community-oriented participatory process, including the specifications for a planned extended hydrological study to investigate the historic hydraulic system within and around the property and a geotechnical diagnosis study to determine specifications for alternative anchorage options for future shelters covering the churches;
4. Welcomes the results of the continued collaboration under the Ethiopian-French bilateral programme in support of Lalibela;
5. Also welcomes the progress made in establishing a people-centred approach to preservation, maintenance and conservation of the churches implemented by the local community of clergy and laity;
6. Notes with appreciation the additional research conducted in response to the Committee's decision on the use of bamboo as a structural engineering element at the required scale for sheltering the churches revealed new uncertainties on the feasibility of this material, and also notes the State Party's decision to adopt the conclusion that one of the viable solutions to protect these churches from adverse weathering and stone deterioration is to cover them with permanent shelters;
7. Encourages the State Party to provide for a monitoring system to collect more data to define a state of environmental equilibrium for each of the 11 churches, necessary to accurately determine what impact shelters may have and before supporting the idea of permanent shelters;
8. Also notes that the security situation has allowed only ad-hoc interventions so far, and reiterates its request that a robust monitoring and maintenance regimen be developed based on the partnership approach explored with the clergy community;
9. Further welcomes the announcement of a new architectural competition to explore suitable alternative sheltering options for the churches jointly with the community of clergy and laity; considering that the shelter options should continue to evolve and be reassessed based on feedback from local communities and ongoing monitoring in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before taking the final decision of the options proposed, the following:
    a) The results of the geotechnical and hydrological studies and other studies deemed necessary for the ongoing preservation efforts,
    b) Detailed plans for the conservation measures required for each architectural group, including maintenance, data collection and monitoring measures,
    c) The final results from the architectural competition that showcase the various sheltering options for each architectural group of churches, including but not limited to the anchoring system, the water drainage system, the dismantling approach for

the existing shelter, and the regular maintenance requirements for the existing and potential new shelters,

d) Updates on the different components of the Ethiopian-French collaboration project, including the timetable of planned implementation;

11. Also encourages the State Party to continue the dialogue with all key stakeholders in the process of developing an Integrated Conservation Plan and reviewing the Management Plan with a people-centred approach to conservation and management, based on long-lasting sustainable partnerships with all stakeholders involved;

12. Encourages moreover the State Party to continue its efforts in the formalisation of the local management system with proper community engagement of clergy and laity through adapting the legal provisions for the reserved area regulations;

13. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:

a) A minor boundary modification that includes all cadastral maps of the property,

b) A Vision Statement on growth and development, in line with the 2015 Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention, that respects the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and underpins the revised Structure Plan of Lalibela and the Local Development Plan,

c) An update of the 2014 Management Plan that includes all management and planning provisions for the property;

14. Finally requests 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.

156. Lamu Old Town (Kenya)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.156

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.126** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Regrets that the State Party did not submitted in a timely manner a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee;

4. Notes with appreciation the progress achieved in the project funded under the International Assistance, particularly in awareness-raising, capacity-building and comprehensive stakeholder mapping;

5. Encourages the State Party to revitalise and enforce the town's conservation by-laws once the Management Plan is finalised, ensuring consistency with Decision **43 COM 7B.107** and with the results of the forthcoming condition survey;

6. Invites the State Party to continue employing participatory approaches that engage local authorities, community groups and national agencies in decision-making and implementation, thereby strengthening governance and fostering sustainable development benefits for residents;

7. Underlines, again, the utmost urgency of:

a) Completing the clarification of boundaries of the property and putting in place a larger buffer zone to include all of Lamu Island, parts of Manda Island, and relevant mangroves belts in the area,

b) Completing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and other relevant Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs and HIAs) related to the Lamu Port Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) project taking into account both individual and cumulative impacts that the project and all of its sub-projects may have on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of this property;

8. Urges the State Party to continue its effort in finalizing the revision on the Management Plan and calls upon the international community to provide further technical and financial support, as appropriate, to help the State Party complete the condition survey and operationalise the revised governance structures;

9. Also urges again the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for comment and review by the Advisory Bodies:

a) The mapping and survey of the condition of buildings and streetscapes,

b) An updated clearly delineated map of the property and its enlarged buffer zone be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for comment prior to formally submitting it to the World Heritage Committee as a Minor Boundary Modification in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines and before it is adopted into the national and county planning systems,

c) The revised Management Plan;

10. Finally requests 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.

157. Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site (Kenya)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.157

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 8B.14** and **45 COM 7B.127** adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) respectively,

3. Regrets that the State Party has not submitted in a timely manner a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee;

4. Notes with appreciation the urgent actions undertaken through Emergency International Assistance to reconstruct the fallen sections of the walls of the site and to stabilise their weak parts;

5. Welcomes the approach used for these emergency actions to fully engage local communities, especially the youth, in the reconstruction process through consultative meetings and the involvement of elders in transferring the traditional skills and know-how on traditional construction techniques to the youth living around the property, and encourages the State Party to further develop this approach;

6. Recognizes that wall repairs maintain the archaeological integrity and environmental sustainability of the Thimlich Ohinga property, as during repairs collapsed stones in their natural, unshaped form are re-selected and arranged through centuries-old indigenous

knowledge systems that emphasized stability through careful placement rather than modification, and that the only material that is challenging to obtain, but not extinct, is the thatching grass used for the Luo homestead that is part of the interpretation centre but which does not contribute to the property's OUV;

7. Also encourages the State Party to continue to pursue the extension to the property boundary at its south-eastern end near the entrance to Koketch, and the extension and demarcation of the buffer zone, and submit a boundary modification request in accordance with paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines;

8. Recalls its invitation to the State Party to further develop the selection of indicators and reporting methodology utilised in the monitoring system for the property, making use if required, of technical assistance provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

9. Calls for increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through International Assistance, to further continue with the reconstruction and stabilisation work with the involvement of local communities and stakeholders to conserve the site and improve the social, economic development of the local residents in job creation and skills development;

10. Finally requests 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.

158. Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.158

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.158** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes:

   a) The State Party's continuing commitment to the mission of creating a participatory decision mechanism with the local community and all stakeholders,

   b) The establishment of the Technical Committee with the aim to evaluate the impacts of projects in the buffer zone on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,

   c) The ambition to establish the Beekrumsing Ramlallah Interpretation Centre Phase II extension in the Cerné Docks;

4. Notes reported outcomes of the archaeological investigations undertaken between 2022 and 2023 at the Parc à Boulets, which have established the importance of this area as part of the historical Immigration Depot, and encourages the State Party to undertake further onsite and desktop research, with a view to a possible extension of the boundaries of the property through a minor boundary modification process, as outlined in Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, in order to also include these areas into the property;

5. Also notes with appreciation that the Management Plan for the property will be reviewed under the participatory decision-making mechanism that involves local community and requests the State Party to submit the draft reviewed Management Plan 2026-2030 to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is adopted;

6. Further notes:

   a) The status updates provided on the five projects mentioned above,

   b) The State Party's proactive responses to the outcomes of impact assessment processes following the ICOMOS' Technical Reviews,

   c) A Master Plan, which will be developed to integrate the cultural developments in the Buffer Zone 1 into a Cultural Heritage precinct, and which will be assessed through an impact assessment process, will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

7. Also requests that the State Party:

   a) Continue to rework the Immigration Square proposal, based on the outcomes of the Overarching HIA/VIA and the guidance included in the Planning Policy Guideline 6 (PPG 6) and the Action Area Plan 01 (AAP 01),

   b) Establish a maximum envelope for the proposed hotel component of the Immigration Square proposal through digital modelling of views both to and from the property and aligned with the PPG 6,

   c) Ensure that the reprogramming of the Trou Fanfaron harbour precinct does not negatively impact the spatial relationship between the property and the Trou Fanfaron Bay through an increased traffic movement along the quayside;

8. Also encourages the State Party to establish programmes to document and stimulate the restoration and appropriate reuse of historical structures located in the buffer zone of the property, especially the buffer zone 2 (commonly referred to as China Town), which requires more attention;

9. Finally requests 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.

159. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.159

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.36** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the progress made in the rehabilitation of the traditional macuti houses that were affected by cyclone Gombe in March 2022, especially the approach taken in engaging and strengthening local capacity in responding to climate-induced threats, but requests the State Party to expedite implementation of the ongoing projects supported by UNESCO through the approved International Assistance, and encourages the State Party to mobilise the necessary funds to meet the needs on the ground, including the rehabilitation of the Hospital Complex and the improvement of the Conservation Office of Mozambique Island (GACIM)'s staffs working conditions;

4. Commends the State Party for the formation of the technical Disaster Management and Response Team to facilitate the rapid response to the impact of the recent Cyclone Diekelede, and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a comprehensive report of the damages caused by the cyclone along with a needs

assessment and an urgent intervention plan to be used for emergency support mobilization;

5. Also welcomes the State Party's intention to develop a more detailed Urban Structure plan specifically for the property and reiterates its request that the State Party submit the detailed Urban Structure Plan of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before its approval and ratification process;

6. Also encourages the State Party to progress with the restoration efforts for the historic monuments, considering the guidelines put forward in the manual for the conservation of built heritage of the island along with the urban structure plan, and further requests that progress is reported upon to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

7. Takes note of the ongoing implementation of the 2022-2027 Management Plan and efforts undertaken in disseminating the Plan to the relevant stakeholders to foster broad ownership and participation, and urges the State Party to ensure that technical review provided by the ICOMOS in April 2023 are considered for improved implementation results;

8. Also commends the State Party for the building inventory work undertaken within the neighbourhoods of Macuti town with the intent to extend it to the Stone and Lime town, which follows the regulation on the Classification and Management of the Built and Landscape Heritage of the Island, requests furthermore the State Party to expand the inventory to integrate comprehensive architectural, structural, and material condition assessments, ensuring a holistic documentation of the urban fabric, and also reiterates the request to the State Party to finalize and submit these inventories to the World Heritage Centre for information, including more detailed information on their current use in the inventory;

9. Also recalling that work on the revised buffer zone delimitation has been ongoing since 2011, and recognizing the State Party's intention to include the result of the documentation of the built and landscape heritage along with natural heritage and ecosystems surrounding the property, strongly encourages the State Party to expedite this process and to submit the Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Notes that no progress is reported on the proposal to construct the Goa Tourist Complex, whose proposed location falls within the delimited buffer zone of the property, and reiterates its reminder to the State Party to ensure that any new developments on this project is shared with the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and assessed through appropriate impact assessment processes pursuant to paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines;

11. Also notes the State Party's intention to draw up a sea defence architectural and structural project to reinforce the barriers and coastal protection of the property, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake a heritage and visual impact assessment of this project, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

12. Further notes the establishment of a technical Disaster Management and Response Team to update the 2017 Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and furthermore reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the Disaster Risk Management Plan with the incorporated sea defence infrastructure strategy to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

13. Finally requests 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.

160. Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.160

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.130** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends 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 encourages the State Party to continue its efforts for further stabilization of the security situation;
4. Welcomes 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. Notes with appreciation that the updating of the Conservation Management Plan, which will include an updated Disaster Risk Management Plan, of the property is nearing finalization, and requests the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Expresses concern 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 also welcomes 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. Encourages the State Party to continue the commendable active dialogue with the Hidi-in 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. Further notes 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, further welcomes 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 requests 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. Also reiterates its request 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. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.161

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 8B.30** adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Welcomes progress with the development of a draft updated Management Plan and the designation of the property under National Law and notes that the Plan will be the subject of a Technical Review by ICOMOS;
4. Further welcomes the work undertaken on defining the attributes for the Gisozi and Bisesero sites, as requested by the Committee, as these go beyond the physical places associated with massacres to include movable objects and remains such as victims' bodies, personal belongings and weapons, as well as memorials built after the massacre, none of which are attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), requests the State Party to refine and map the mass graves as key attributes of these two sites along with the defined attributes of the other two sites, and to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS;
5. Further notes that there is an open grave at the Bisesero site and requests the State Party to clarify its purposes and/or uses as, at the time of inscription, additional information from the State Party clarified that there would be no new burials or graves in the serial nominated property;
6. Also welcomes the new policy that will allow for only a few bodies to remain on display in order to optimise limited resources, and strongly supports the State Party in considering decent burials for all the victims;
7. Also notes that new types of media will be used to evoke the horrors of the massacre and that an interpretive strategy plan is being developed on the basis of two workshops, supported by the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and the International Centre for Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC), held in October and November 2024; and that this draft strategy will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre to be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies the proposed slight extension of the Nyamata sites to include potential new attributes for review before a Minor Boundary Modification is submitted, the proposed Garden of Remembrance and craft shop at Murambi, as well as any proposals for new buildings on land adjoining the Nyamata site, together with appropriate Heritage Impact Assessments that take into account how any utilitarian new construction might interact adversely on the memorial nature of the sites;
9. Requests 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.

162. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.162

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.110**, **44 COM 7B.120,** and **45 COM 7B.131** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019), its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023) respectively;
3. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to rehabilitate private built heritage, in particular by encouraging owners to become more involved and to invest in the rehabilitation of their property
4. Notes with appreciation the results of the seminar to raise awareness of the Safeguarding and Valorisation Plan (PSMV) organised by the Association "Les Amis du Patrimoine" in February 2025, in particular the announcement by the State services to strengthen measures for monitoring construction sites and procedures for issuing construction permits, and the setting up of a monitoring committee by local stakeholders in Saint Louis for the protection and safeguarding of the property, requests the State Party to speed up the process of drawing up the first Management and Conservation Plan for the property, and reminds it of the opportunity to submit a request for international assistance for this purpose by **31 October 2025** at the latest;;
5. Also encourages the State Party to update the SINDAR database software and to train staff to manage it;
6. Encourages further the State Party to implement the recommendations of the study on the design and implementation of an environmental monitoring and modelling system for the Saint-Louis coastal zone;
7. Recommends the precise definition and implementation of priority rehabilitation work on the Roume, Jay and Pointe Sud quays;
8. Notes with regret that the extension works to the Great Mosque were completed without more detailed information being submitted in advance of the project, which would have enabled a more in-depth analysis of its impact on the authenticity of the property;
9. Reminds the State Party of the need to inform the Committee of its intentions to undertake or authorise, in an area protected by the Convention, major restorations or new constructions in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre detailed information on the emblematic squares of the island under rehabilitation;
10. Considering the major stake represented by the Grande Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) gas project, also requests the State Party to:
    a) To resume and continue, in cooperation with BP Petroleum, the consultations with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, undertaken in January 2021, particularly for the sustainable monitoring of the possible economic, social and environmental impacts of this project;
    b) Provide more information on the commitments made by the Ministry responsible for the environment and assurances that ecological and heritage issues are taken into account;
    c) Continue to raise awareness and provide information to all government bodies involved in heritage prerogatives to protect the property and which could be impacted by this project;

11. Thanks the State Party for inviting the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission, requested by the Committee at its extended 44th and 45th sessions, to assess the general state of conservation and progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 2017 mission, and requests that this mission be carried out as soon as possible;

12. Finally Requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.163

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.132** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party in monitoring of risk reduction measures of the property, including through the water quality monitoring information provided and the submission of an International Assistance request for the development of a risk preparedness strategy for the Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai and Environs (FHSSSKE), and encourages the State Party to ensure that the risk strategy is aligned with existing management frameworks and ongoing conservation initiatives to promote a cohesive approach to risk management at the property;

4. Takes note of the monitoring report for the implementation of the Integrated Management Plan Framework (IMPF) along with the challenges highlighted in addressing the strategic objectives set out, and also encourages the State Party to mobilize the necessary resources needed to ensure its implementation including through international assistance request and with support from its various technical and financial partners;

5. Notes that the specialist committee recommendations of the appropriate course of action in lieu of the Long-Term Solution (LTS) of the acid mine drainage is pending approval, and urges the State Party to continue working in close coordination with the specialist committee to identify and pursue an appropriate and permanent LTS for the acid mine drainage and ensure that the report and the Environmental Impact Assessment of the identified approach is undertaken in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage context, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by ICOMOS prior to implementation;

6. Also welcomes the initiatives of the Short-Term Solution (STS) put in place to monitor the acid mine drainage, which have shown improvement of the effluent quality, with relative sub-acidic pH levels reported downstream, and requests the State Party to continue to monitor the quality of the treated mine water downstream and report on the observations made;

7. Appreciates the State Party's continued commitment to formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Mogale City Local Municipality to comprehensively address heritage conservation, sustainable tourism, socio-economic development, and the preservation of the natural landscape and biodiversity;

8. Also notes with concern the reported high level of the bacteriological contamination caused by the Percy Stewart Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), also requests the

State Party to conduct comprehensive studies and monitoring of water quality, with particular emphasis on surface water bodies downstream of the WWTW, and also reiterates its request to the State Party that the functioning of the Percy Stewart WWTW and the reduction of the instances of bacteriological contamination in the surface waters of the FHSSSKE component be addressed in the MoU to be established with the Mogale City Local Municipality;

9. Further welcomes the ongoing rehabilitation of the Percy Stewart WWTW, initiated by the Local Municipality and further requests the State Party to ensure continuous monitoring on bioremediation progress and infrastructure upgrades and to provide the Committee with detailed information on the extent of the planned intervention, to ensure no negative potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

10. Further notes the submission of the masterplan, the infrastructure development preliminary design report and the heritage management plan of the proposed adaptive reuse of the old mine buildings located in the Taung skull component of the property and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that the rehabilitation efforts take consideration of the technical reviews to be provided by ICOMOS;

11. Finally requests 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.

164. Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.164

The World Heritage Committee,

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. Commends 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. Notes the ongoing development of the buffer zone guidelines, also commends the participatory approach being employed, and reiterates the importance of integrating these guidelines into binding local planning regulations in coordination with the Kampala Capital City Authority;

5. Congratulates 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 encourages continued collaboration to ensure the effective protection and transmission of its attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) over the long term;

6. Requests 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. Also requests 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. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.165

The World Heritage Committee,

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. Takes note 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 encourages it to continue its efforts to ensure the conservation of the property;

4. Nevertheless reminds 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. Remains concerned about the identification of a further 30 buildings in an advanced state of deterioration, requests 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. Also requests 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. Acknowledging the positive results of the cross-sectoral consultation process that has been initiated, it nevertheless reiterates its encouragement 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. Considering 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, finally

requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.166

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 7B.136** and **45 COM 8E**, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends 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. Notes 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. Requests the State Party to provide updated advice regarding implementation of the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission and 2021 Advisory mission;
6. Welcomes 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 also requests 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, further requests 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. Notes 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 requests furthermore that these projects and the related documentation be reviewed by the proposed Reactive Monitoring mission;
9. Finally requests 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)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.167

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.137** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the State Party on the continuing progress made in compliance with the requirements and processes of the World Heritage Convention and its 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 request that the draft IMP be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to being adopted and implemented;
4. Notes that within the first year of activation of the approved management system under the IMP, the State Party proposes to identify a buffer zone for the property, and also reiterates its previous request to the State Party to further strengthen the protection and management of the property, with particular regard to its retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), by defining a buffer zone and submitting a Minor Boundary Modification request, in line with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines;
5. Acknowledging that an amended HIA and visual impact assessment were submitted by the State Party in May 2025 for the 'First Line High-Speed Railway Project (Green Line, Alamain – Ain Sokhna)' in response to the related ICOMOS Technical Review, requests the State Party to not proceed with execution, pending a new ICOMOS technical review;
6. Also acknowledging the need for connection between the new Grand Egyptian Museum and Pyramids of Giza, the recommendation of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission that the area located between the Grand Egyptian Museum and the property should be kept free from any construction project, and the findings of the related ICOMOS Technical Review of the Tourist Walkway Project, considers that this project would have an unacceptable impact on the property and its cultural landscape, affecting attributes which support its OUV, since the mitigation measures currently proposed would not be sufficient to address the adverse impact, and therefore urges the State Party to revise the proposed walkway design and to re-submit an amended project proposal with updated HIA to the World Heritage Centre for further Technical Review by ICOMOS before the project is completed;
7. Further acknowledges the report on 'Subsurface Imaging and Investigation by Geophysical Techniques of Ground Penetrating Radars (GPR) and also requests the State Party to address the findings of the related ICOMOS Technical Review, with respect to future geophysical investigations at the property;
8. Welcomes the additional information provided about the 'Pyramids Security Project', noting that the scope of this project has extended beyond security to include interpretive lighting, and further requests the State Party to implement the findings of the related ICOMOS Technical Review, including assessment of the potential impacts, such as intrusion into underground archaeology, visual consequences of new infrastructure and

effects of additional coloured lighting on inscribed and coloured surfaces, and to submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for further Technical Review;

9. Encourages the State Party to confirm its previous invitation for an Advisory mission, with the main purpose being to advise on current major projects, evaluate progress with implementation of previous Committee decisions, mission recommendations and Technical Review findings, and assess any additional conservation issues;

10. Finally requests 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.

168. Saint Catherine Area (Egypt)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.168

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.138** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the information provided by the State Party that mandates Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) be undertaken for any projects located within or surrounding the boundaries of World Heritage properties;

4. Notes the establishment of sub-committees of the Supreme Committee for the Management of Egyptian World Heritage Sites to review the status of the projects being proposed or/and to be implemented within or near to the boundaries Egyptian World Heritage properties, and requests that the State Party provide the outcomes of these reviews to the World Heritage Centre;

5. Also notes that the State Party's confirmation that all archaeological excavations and their consolidation within the property are undertaken according to international standards and are regularly monitored;

6. Acknowledging that a revised HIA was submitted by the State Party in June 2025, and while noting that the rehabilitation of roads that forms part of the 'Great Revelation Initiative – the Land Peace' is being implemented, urges that further developments foreseen in this 'Initiative' remain halted until a Technical Review of the revised HIA has been undertaken by the Advisory Bodies, and its recommendations have been provided to the State Party;

7. Also noting that an inventory of urgent conservation needs has been initiated for Saint Catherine Monastery, but not yet for the rest of the property, reiterates its requests to the State Party to complete this inventory and develop a Conservation Plan for the entire property;

8. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a Management Plan with a tourism management component that also makes provision for the implementation of the Conservation Plan for the property, and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

9. Considering that the justification of the application of Criteria (i), (iii) and (iv) relies also on the rugged natural environment and remoteness of the property, which are integral attributes of OUV, further requests that the State Party safeguard these characteristics through all its plans and policies that may affect the property;

10. Further notes the State Party's welcoming of the request to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and further reiterates its request that this mission take place urgently, to assess the state of conservation of the property, the already executed components of the 'Great Revelation Initiative – the Land of Peace' project, and the efficacy of the protection and management system of the property, and to provide guidance to the State Party in its further development of the HIA for the 'Great Revelation' project, and the development of the Conservation Plan and the Management Plan for the property, and requests furthermore that the mission be invited to the property in time for its report to be tabled before the Committee at its 48th session;

11. 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.

169. Babylon (Iraq)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.169

The World Heritage Committee,

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. Takes note of the progress made by the State Party in continuing conservation activities and in augmenting the management and presentation of the property;

4. Reiterates its request 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. Acknowledging 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, requests 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. Welcomes 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. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.170

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.3,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.140** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the State Party's continued engagement with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, including through the timely submission of material review of management tools, impact assessments and project proposals;

4. Notes with appreciation that the 2025 ICOMOS Advisory mission reports that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains intact, supported by strong on-site stewardship and preserved wilderness and hydrological attributes;

5. Also welcomes the updated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and updated development guidelines for new churches in the buffer zone areas dedicated to churches, the revision of the Management Plan for the property to include flash flood and earthquake preparedness and emergency response, and the conservation actions and preventative geotechnical works to mitigate flash floods that have been completed by the State Party;

6. Encourages the State Party to implement the guidelines for new churches in the buffer zone areas dedicated for churches and the revised Management Plan, and to undertake future periodic review of these tools in a timely manner, with a view to possible revisions to increase their efficacy;

7. Also notes the State Party's proposal to develop a cemetery with limited capacity in the buffer zone of the property, and requests that the State Party ensure that infrastructure development to reach the location is undertaken in a manner which is in keeping with the wilderness character of the property;

8. Further notes that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Master Plan of the Baptism Site Development Zone (BDZ) concludes that the project requires mitigation, including amendment in location and scale of some of its constituent components, that these conclusions are confirmed by ICOMOS through a Technical Review, and further requests that the State Party:

   a) Align any amended BDZ project proposals with the recommendations of the conclusions of the ESIA, the ICOMOS Technical Review and the 2025 mission,

   b) Ensure that any amended proposals are reassessed through an iterative ESIA and with consideration of visitor carrying capacity of the property,

c) Submit any amended proposal and updated ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any further decision on the implementation of the plan constituent parts are made;

9. Notes furthermore the proposal to develop a Master Plan for buffer zone area designated for the construction of churches as a phased project, requests furthermore that this process be accompanied with an iterative HIA to ensure alignment with the maintenance of the OUV of the property;

10. Reiterates its request that the State Party submit the Master Plan for the whole buffer zone when completed, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and also encourages the State Party to ensure that the various plans, including that being developed for the Baptism Site Development Zone are aligned;

11. Acknowledges that the State Party has been monitoring the development along the western bank of the Jordan River, and reiterates the need to ensure the preservation of important vistas and views by all concerned States Parties;

12. Finally requests 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.

171. Petra (Jordan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.171

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.141** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party in conservation, sustainable development and community engagement, despite the recent downturn in visitation to the property, including ongoing work to address densification within the property's setting and divert urban growth to the east, the GIS mapping program, and the information submitted about Um Sayhoun village;

4. Welcomes the commitment of the State Party to an Integrated Territorial Master Plan (ITMP) and the progress achieved through the completion of an Integrated Site Management Plan, Tourism Master Plan, Development Plan for the Six Communities, and, recalling its previous request to the State Party to afford priority to the ITMP, reiterates its requests the State Party to submit a comprehensive draft of the ITMP to the World Heritage Centre at the earliest opportunity, for review by the Advisory Bodies before the ITMP is finalized, formally adopted, and implemented;

5. Also welcomes the State Party's advice about community awareness and training programmes, new water harvesting infrastructure and check dams in high-risk flood zones, the proposed renewable energy project, graffiti removal, erosion control, and structural rehabilitation, and initiatives directed at improving the visitor experience and reducing the impact of tourism;

6. Notes that the Heritage Impact Assessment for the Al Dara project concluded that the project has no significant impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, but consistent with the 2025 ICOMOS Technical Review, also requests the State Party to undertake additional analysis and to identify and implement opportunities to reduce the visual impact on the setting of the Siq;

7. Further welcomes the completion of the Tourism Development Master Plan (2023-2033), and, consistent with the 2025 ICOMOS Technical Review, further requests the State Party to closely manage the growth of tourism at the property and identify its carrying capacity, so as to ensure sustainable tourism, and in that regard requests furthermore the State Party to submit the proposed crowd management study to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is finalized and implemented;

8. Recalling its previous requests regarding new regulations for a designated buffer zone and its larger setting, in line with the proposed ITMP and, while noting the concerns expressed by the State Party, reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to submit a Minor Boundary Modification request, in line with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, and to clarify the protective urban regulations of the planned buffer zone, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

9. Further welcomes the previous invitation by the State Party for an Advisory mission in order to provide advice on this process and the steps needed to define a framework for a comprehensive planning approach to address related matters, including the proposed back exit road, the requested moratorium on new buildings and infrastructure that are visible from the property, and the mitigation of densification, tourism and development pressures;

10. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.172

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.142** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts in reviewing the content of the 2017 Management Plan, establishing a new expert committee, and integrating other elements of the management into the planning process, and encourages the State Party to maintain this new direction and submit the draft updated Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

4. Encourages the State Party to continue its study of options for the Stylite Tower and the monitoring of its condition, and submit the final conservation project proposal for the Stylite Tower for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

5. Reiterates its concern that the urgent conservation work at the Castrum, identified in the 2017 Management Plan and highlighted in the new survey drawings, does not appear to have taken place, and urges the State Party to proceed with the planning for structured long-term conservation actions at the Castrum and their implementation;

6. Commends the State Party on its research of temporary shelter options that reduce impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value on six churches (The Peacock Chapel, Church of the Lions, Church of Priest Wa'il, Church of the River, Church of the Palm Tree and Church of Saint Paul), and urges the State Party to proceed with the planning for a temporary shelter approach, and the linking of the churches with the proposed tourist track in an annual mosaics-themed event;

7. Also commends the State Party on the steps being taken to substantially augment the site security measures and address illegal excavation and requests information on the extent of illegal excavation taking place before and after the new security measures be provided to the World Heritage Centre;

8. Notes with appreciation the State Party's undertaking to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission, possibly when the draft updated Management Plan is being finalized and before its final approval;

9. Recalls that, in case the State Party wishes to propose a modification to the boundaries of the property as inscribed, this should be done through a boundary modification request in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines;

10. Finally requests 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.

173. Anjar (Lebanon)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.173

The World Heritage Committee,

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

2. Takes note of the provisional inscription of the property on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection, under the mechanism established by the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Decision 4 EXT.COM 4.4);

3. Takes further note of the information provided by the State Party, and the reassurance that the property was not impacted by the hostilities in 2024;

4. Acknowledges the efforts and commitment of the State Party to the conservation of the property as well as to the adequate management of its wider setting, and encourages the State Party to pursue these efforts with local and international partners, and to provide updates to the World Heritage Centre as necessary;

5. Recalls the obligation to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, information on planned or ongoing projects, including for any major restoration or development interventions, that may impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, prior to making any decisions that could irreversibly affect the property;

6. Finally requests 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.

174. Baalbek (Lebanon)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.174

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Takes note of the provisional inscription of the property on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection, under the mechanism established by the

1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Decision 4 EXT.COM 4.5);

3. Takes note with appreciation of the March 2025 UNESCO mission to Lebanon to conduct a rapid damage assessment of several sites, including Baalbek;

4. Expresses concern about the damage incurred at, and in the vicinity, of the property resulting from hostilities, and encourages the State Party to address any urgently needed repair work when possible, relaunch the monitoring programme at the temple complex, particularly for the Temple of Jupiter, and conduct in-depth structural damage assessments as needed;

5. Commends the efforts made by the State Party in continuing research, site enhancement and maintenance work, and also encourages the State Party to further pursue these actions to the extent possible;

6. Welcomes the initiation of works to enhance visitor accessibility and experience at the property, recommends that these activities and efforts are implemented within an overall visitor management plan, to be provided in the framework of an overall Management Plan for the property, and further encourages the State Party to initiate the preparation of a Management Plan as soon as possible;

7. Encourages furthermore the State Party to submit a boundary clarification for the property, based on consultations with the World Heritage Centre;

8. Recalls the need to submit details of planned projects at the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, comprising Heritage Impact Assessments to be conducted in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

9. Encourages moreover the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to support its efforts in ensuring adequate management of the property;

10. Finally requests 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.

175. Byblos (Lebanon)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.175

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add 2,

2. Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.56**, **43 COM 7B.48** and **44 COM 7B.130** and **45 COM 7B.143**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively;

3. Welcomes with satisfaction the efforts undertaken towards improving the state of conservation of the property under these difficult conditions;

4. Takes note of the provisional inscription of the property on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection, under the mechanism established by the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Decision 4 EXT.COM 4.7);

5. Noting that all works on the "Diplomatic Club" touristic beach resort project adjacent to the property remain suspended, as requested by the Committee in its previous decisions,

and that no further archaeological investigations have been conducted since, reiterates its request that any future project should ensure appropriate environmental and archaeological outcomes for the World Heritage property and be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment prior to development;

6. Invites the State Party to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2018 mission report, with particular attention to developing a Management Plan with provisions for sustainable tourism, conservation activities, regular maintenance, and research at the property, and to consider the adoption of the Historic Urban Landscape approach for integrating the Management Plan with the urban development for the Old Town of Byblos;

8. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts towards enhancing synergies with the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage;

9. Requests the State Party to submit a boundary clarification for the property, based on consultations with the World Heritage Centre, and subsequently consider developing a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification request, including the establishment of a buffer zone;

10. Also encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to support efforts in the elaboration of the required management tools;

11. Also requests 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.

176. Tyre (Lebanon)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.176

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,

2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.145** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),

3. Acknowledges the submission of the State Party's report in light of the severe challenges faced;

4. Takes note of the provisional inscription of the property on the International List of Cultural Property under Enhanced Protection, under the mechanism established by the 1999 Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (Decision 4 EXT.COM 4.32);

5. Takes note with appreciation of the March 2025 UNESCO mission to Lebanon to conduct a rapid damage assessment of several sites, including Tyre;

6. Expresses concern about the damage incurred at, and in the vicinity, of the property resulting from hostilities, and encourages the State Party to address urgent repair and rehabilitation work, when possible, as well as initiate detailed structural assessments and monitoring of archaeological structures;

7. Also takes note of the establishment of the agreement between the primary stakeholders for the use of a lot adjacent to the archaeological site (Al-Bass - Tyre) as a parking area, and also encourages the State Party to submit further details when available, for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies;

8. Commends the efforts made in improving the status of documentation on the property and undertaking a marine survey that will inform the expansion of the protected area, as well as the progress in the preparation of a Management Plan, and further encourages the State Party to finalize this plan, with the inclusion of provisions for a maritime protection zone, to preserve the underwater archaeological remains, and submit this plan, once available, for review;

9. Recalling the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, reiterates its request to the State Party to implement its recommendations with particular attention to establishing a comprehensive management strategy for the property that covers all aspects of documentation, conservation and monitoring, summarizing the knowledge on techniques and procedures in a manual, with an updated action plan, as a core component of the future Management Plan for the property, including:

   a) Defining approaches to improving current maintenance practices concerning vegetation, drainage and sewage control through appropriate preventive measures,

   b) Establishing principles of minimal intervention in the conservation of mosaics and structures as lessons learned from the pilot projects,

   c) Developing and implementing a monitoring protocol to be available for scientific conservation research and to enable evaluation of the efficacy of conservation measures,

   d) Developing and implementing a comprehensive presentation strategy for the property to reflect the actual understanding of its values as reflected in the various architectonic technologies and funerary practices of past generations, as well as conservation challenges,

   e) Considering integrating the Management Plan with regional and urban development and traffic-mobility plans to manage the development pressures in the long term;

10. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to revise the proposed boundary of the property, identify a buffer zone and develop regulations and procedures for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in accordance with Decision **37 COM 8B.45**, and to submit a minor boundary modification, in line with paragraphs 107 and 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;

11. Welcomes the initiation of a traffic and mobility plan, and further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit this study to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;

12. Recalls the Committee's invitation to the State Party to submit details of planned projects at the property, including any proposed road and infrastructure projects, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, comprising Heritage Impact Assessments to be conducted in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context;

13. Encourages furthermore the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to support its efforts in ensuring adequate management of the property;

14. Finally requests 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.

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

Decision: 47 COM 7B.177

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.146** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Reiterates its request to the State Party to:
   a) Provide to the World Heritage Centre, detailed technical information, including visuals, on all work carried out and planned which may affect the monumental attributes of the property and its urban fabric, so that a more accurate overall assessment of the property's state of conservation can be established,
   b) Provide to the World Heritage Centre the expected information on the management structure in place for the property, as well as the traffic study to regulate traffic and manage parking around the port, as soon as it is prepared,
   c) Submit to the World Heritage Centre, as part of the retrospective inventory and as soon as possible, a proposal for a boundary clarification of the property;
4. Requests the State Party to submit the Master Plan for the Urban Development of Greater Essaouira (SDAU) and the Plan for the Development and Safeguarding of the Medina (PASME) in their entirety, for review by the Advisory Bodies, in order to ensure that these plans include provisions on private property, are based on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach to ensure the integration of the property with its surrounding environment, and contribute to maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and the other multiple values of the property, such as those relating to its socio-economic aspects;
5. Noting with concern the critical state of degradation of the Mellah Quarter, which constitutes an important part of the historical and cultural identity of the Medina, also requests the State Party to make progress in resolving the legal issues related to the ownership of the Mellah properties and to establish, while interacting closely with stakeholders, a strategy for the rehabilitation of the quarter;
6. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on any other major projects to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;
7. Finally requests 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.

178. Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe (Sudan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.178

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **46.COM 7B.29**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Continues to express its deep concern over the ongoing armed conflict and the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, affecting site management capabilities and posing a threat to the property, and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;
4. Notes with concern that the lack of adequate resources is posing additional challenges, impeding essential maintenance and conservation actions that are needed to address weathering and climate related threats;
5. Commending the State Party for its efforts to ensure the protection of the property, monitor, and assess its current condition, in spite of the difficult prevailing context, strongly encourages the State Party to continue these efforts to the extent possible, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the evolution of the situation on the ground;
6. Welcomes the works planned in the framework of the Emergency International Assistance request approved in February 2025, and also requests the State Party to limit conservation works to urgently needed interventions, while any further restoration actions should be undertaken following the preparation of detailed studies and discussions to define optimal solutions;
7. Requests the State Party to refrain from permitting any development within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, until the management plan is updated to include planning regulations for the buffer zone, assess the potential heritage impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and integrate a sustainable tourism strategy;
8. Reiterates its call for an increased mobilisation of the international community and all scientific missions involved in the property to support the State Party's efforts, including by providing the necessary technical assistance and adequate documentation to the State Party;
9. Recalling the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, appeals to all States Parties and actors to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Sudan;
10. 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, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

179. Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.179

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.30**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 46th session;
4. Continues to expresses its deep concern over the ongoing armed conflict and the ensuing instability, which has impacted communities and all sectors of society, affecting site management capabilities and posing a threat to the property, and calls on all parties involved in the conflict to refrain from any action that could cause damage to the property;
5. Notes with concern that the lack of adequate resources is posing additional challenges, impeding essential maintenance and conservation actions that are needed to address natural weathering and climate-related threats;
6. Welcomes the efforts undertaken by the State Party in implementing community engagement and awareness raising activities, nevertheless regrets that the State Party did not inform the World Heritage Centre about the installation of a tent structure in front of Gebel Barkal Museum prior to the commencement of works and requests the State Party to avoid executing any further construction projects, including visitor facilities, until a broader reflection on tourism management is undertaken;
7. Also welcomes the redirection of funding support towards implementing crucial activities for the protection of Gebel Barkal, and also requests the State Party to prioritize emergency measures at the property, and in particular at the Gebel Barkal Museum, and limit interventions to securing the structure without causing irreversible impacts, improving storage facilities, and undertaking the inventory of cultural objects;
8. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on significant projects to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse;
9. Further welcomes the works planned in the framework of the Emergency International Assistance request that was approved in February 2025, and further requests the State Party to limit conservation works to urgently needed interventions, while any further restoration actions should be undertaken following the preparation of detailed studies and discussions to define optimal solutions;
10. Reiterates its call for an increased urgent mobilisation of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;
11. Recalling the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, appeals to all States Parties and actors to cooperate in fighting against the illicit trafficking of cultural property coming from Sudan;
12. 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, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property**

require a broad mobilization to preserve its Outstanding Universal Value, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

180. Archaeological Site of Carthage (Tunisia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.180

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.149** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the continued vigilance on illegal construction work and the measures taken to address them in the Boukhris field, circus of Carthage and Douar Chott areas;
4. Also welcomes the acquisition by the National Heritage Institute of a plot in the ring of the circus of Carthage as a measure to protect this area, and the on-going aim to acquire more plots in sensitive archaeological areas;
5. Noting that some progress has been made in the revision of the Urban Development Plan (PAU), the relaunch of work for the preparation of the Protection and Presentation Plan (PPMV), the update of the inventory of listed monuments, and the intention to establish a multidisciplinary management unit, remains concerned at the slow pace of progress in addressing key considerations of the Committee over the past ten years that were seen as necessary pre-conditions to achieve satisfactory protection and management, which could control development, constrain illegal development, and overall improve the conservation and protection of the property and its immediate setting;
6. Urges the State Party to pursue its efforts at pace in order to address previous decisions of the Committee, and the recommendations of the 2012 and 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS missions, notably:
    a) Submit a minor boundary modification proposal to the World Heritage Centre, providing information about the criteria used to define the buffer zone, as well as regulations and measures for its management;
    b) Update the PAU to reflect the protection level of the park of Carthage-Sidi Bou Saïd, and in coherence with the planned minor boundary modification proposal;
    c) Revise, adopt and implement the PPMV for the property;
    d) Building on preservation and management tools for the property, coordinate the roles of the different stakeholders concerned to complete and adopt the Management Plan, including a tourism management strategy;
    e) Ensure that drafts of the various plans are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before their adoption;
7. Notes that the rehabilitation of the National Museum on Byrsa Hill, based on an international competition that was run with collaboration from ICOMOS, will not go ahead as planned due to technical reasons;
8. Finally requests 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.

181. Djerba: Testimony to a settlement pattern in an island territory (Tunisia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.181

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 8B.37** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Commends the efforts made by the State Party, with the involvement of all relevant ministries, towards the implementation of its previous recommendations,
4. Takes note with appreciation that the protection and management requirements for the property are being addressed through the following actions:
    a) The creation of the Djerba World Heritage management cell and the regional steering committee to ensure coordination and engagement of relevant actors and stakeholders,
    b) The issuance of a protection decree for the property, and the delineation of areas for the initiation of the Safeguarding and Management Plan (PSMV),
    c) The update of the inventory on the state of conservation of ten buildings, with plans to continue this process,
    d) The initiation of a carrying capacity study,
    e) The submission of a map showing the revised boundaries of the property and buffer zone as inscribed in 2023,
    f) The identification of measures to address factors affecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including enhanced coordination with civil society and recommendations for updating Urban Development Plans (PAU);
5. Requests the State Party to continue implementing the actions initiated for the property's protection, conservation and management, and to consider the following:
    a) Prioritize the continuation of activities related to the development of the PSMV, and the update of PAU, as these are crucial regulatory tools for ensuring enhanced preservation of the property,
    b) Based on the completed inventory of architectural elements within the property, define conservation priorities, develop an overall conservation plan and initiate implementation of priority conservation measures,
    c) Integrate the outcomes of the carrying capacity study, including environmental factors, into the definition and implementation of policies aimed at sustainable tourism for the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification proposal to further adjust the boundaries of the property, and to provide further information regarding the location and description of the newly included attributes given the need to demonstrate the links between the component parts and their contribution to the OUV, as well as the justification for the delimitation of the new buffer zone and the legal mechanisms supporting it;
7. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on significant projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse;

8. Finally requests 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.

182. Kairouan (Tunisia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.182

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B.Add.2,
2. Thanks the State Party for its invitation and hosting of a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM advisory mission in January 2023;
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to improve the conditions of the urban fabric as well as of the main attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, notably through several projects submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and the delimitation of the protected area, and encourages it to continue its efforts, in particular to increase the awareness and participation of local populations in the preservation and management of the property;
4. Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2023 advisory mission, requests that the State Party:
    a) Carry out an in-depth study of the attributes of the property, the buffer zone and the visual fields to be preserved, including in the buffer zone and its surrounding context, in order to better understand how they support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and better protect it;
    b) Based on the pilot project provided for in the Medina Regeneration and Enhancement Programme (PRCA) and the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), to carry out a documentation and analysis of traditional and current patterns of use of the urban infrastructure to provide a basis for the socio-economic regeneration of the medina's urban fabric, and to enable the Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan (PSMV) to incorporate suitable provisions to support the regeneration of the property, while protecting its OUV;
    c) Take advantage of the preparation of the PSMV to establish a mechanism for the joint management of the medina, including representatives of the resident community, and involving civil society more closely in the preservation, enhancement and management of the property,
    d) To ensure that the PSMV takes precedence over the Urban Development Plan (PAU) as soon as it is adopted, in order to provide better protection for the property;
5. Also requests the State Party to consider rehabilitation measures appropriate to the status of a major attribute of the property, the Zawiya Sidi Sahbi, and to transmit them to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, prior to their implementation;
6. Finally requests 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.

183. Medina of Sousse (Tunisia)

Decision: 47 COM 7B.183

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **45 COM 7B.150** adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),
3. Welcomes the measures taken by the State Party to set up a coordinated management system for the property, to draw up a safeguarding and valorisation plan (PSMV) and for fundraising, in order to stem the threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts;
4. Recalling the findings and recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission of January 2023, requests the State Party to continue to implement the recommendations of the mission, and in particular to:
    a) carry out a pilot project, reflecting the provisions of the PSMV, in one area of the medina to ensure that it is adapted and applicable to the context, before developing it on a property-wide scale,
    b) ensure that, in the absence of a management plan for the property, the PSMV includes a section detailing the property's management structure,
    c) finalize, adopt and implement the PSMV in order to ensure the preservation of the OUV of the property, its conservation and management, including tourism management, the socio-economic regeneration of the property and coordination between all stakeholders,
    d) integrate into the PSMV the sustainable development aspects of the second phase of the Sousse Urban Development Programme (PDUI-II), while respecting the OUV of the property, in order to ensure the link with the city of Sousse as a whole, and to give it precedence over the Urban Development Plan (PAU) as soon as it is adopted, so as to ensure better protection of the property;
5. Also encourages the State Party to continue to submit information on all major projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before decisions are taken that could be difficult to reverse;
6. Finally Requests 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.

OMNIBUS

Decision: 47 COM 7B.184

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/7B,
2. Takes note with satisfaction of the measures taken by the States Parties concerned to address its previous requests to mitigate the threats on the Outstanding Universal Value of the following World Heritage properties:

- Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda)
- Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk, Archaeological Site of Ancient Ishanapura (Cambodia)
- Astronomical Observatories of Kazan Federal University (Russian Federation)
- Brasilia (Brazil)
- Sudanese style mosques in northern Côte d'Ivoire (Côte d'Ivoire)
- Asmara: A Modernist African City (Eritrea)
- Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania)
- Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun (Bahrain)
- Ḥimā Cultural Area (Saudi Arabia)

3. Encourages the States Parties concerned to pursue their efforts to ensure the conservation of World Heritage properties;

4. Reminds the States Parties concerned to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

8. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

8. Nomination Process

Decision: 47 COM 8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/8,

PROPOSAL FOR THE REVISION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF THE NOMINATION FORMAT

2. Takes note of the proposal to revise and simplify the nomination format, and invites the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, and in consultation with the Category 2 Centres, to implement, subject to the availability of resources, the process proposed in Section I of Document WHC/25/47.COM/8, and to present a proposal for a revised nomination format to the 49th session of the World Heritage Committee;

STREAMLINING OF THE NOMINATION PROCESS: REDUCING THE ONE-YEAR PERIOD BETWEEN TENTATIVE LIST SUBMISSION AND PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT REQUEST

3. Decides to reduce the waiting period between adding a site on the Tentative List and the related submission of a request for Preliminary Assessment by amending Paragraph 65 of the Operational Guidelines as follows:

> 65. States Parties shall submit Tentative Lists to the Secretariat, at least ~~one year~~ **two weeks** prior to the submission of a Preliminary Assessment request to the Secretariat for review by the Advisory Bodies. States Parties are encouraged to re-examine and re-submit their Tentative List at least every ten years.

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES CATEGORY

4. Also takes note of the issues on the use of the cultural landscape category and encourages the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to engage in further joint reflection on how to enhance the functionality of this category, including through more detailed guidance, linked reporting formats, and capacity development opportunities;

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT REQUESTS RECEIVED BY 18 OCTOBER 2024

5. Further takes note of the Preliminary Assessment requests received by 18 October 2024 presented in Annex 1 of Document WHC/25/47.COM/8;

NOMINATIONS NOT EVALUATED FOR THE 47TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

6. Also decides that nominations, which were submitted for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 47th (UNESCO, 2025) sessions, but which could not be evaluated due to security reasons, be examined at the 48th session of the Committee, should security situation allow the technical evaluation mission to be undertaken, without impinging on national and overall quota of nominations (Paragraph 61 of the Operational Guidelines), in accordance with the timeframe foreseen in Paragraph 168 of the Operational Guidelines.

8A. TENTATIVE LISTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES AS OF 15 APRIL 2025, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Decision: 47 COM 8A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/8A,
2. Stressing the importance of the process of revision and updating of Tentative Lists, as a tool towards regional harmonisation of the World Heritage List and long-term planning,
3. Encourages States Parties to seek as early as possible upstream advice from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies during the development or revision of their Tentative Lists as appropriate;
4. Takes note of the Tentative Lists presented in Annexes 2 and 3 of this document.

8B. NOMINATIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

I. CHANGES TO NAMES OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Decision: 47 COM 8B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/8B,
2. Approves the name change to K'gari (Fraser Island) as proposed by the Australian authorities. The name of the property becomes **K'gari** both in English and French.

II. EXAMINATION OF NOMINATION DOSSIERS OF NATURAL, MIXED AND CULTURAL SITES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST PROPOSED FOR EXAMINATION IN 2025

A. NATURAL SITES

A.1 AFRICA

A.1.1 New Nominations

Decision: 47 COM 8B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Inscribes **Gola-Tiwai Complex, Sierra Leone**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ix)** and **(x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Gola-Tiwai Complex is a serial property consisting of four component parts in two protected areas located in the Eastern and Southern Provinces of Sierra Leone: the Gola Rainforest National Park (GRNP) and the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary (TIWS). GRNP consists of three component parts – Gola North, Gola Central and Gola South – and TIWS as a single component part bounded by the Moa River. Together, they cover an area of 71,203 ha. GRNP and TIWS are part of the Greater Gola Landscape that extends eastwards into Liberia and constitutes, as a whole, the third largest remaining forest block in the highly fragmented Upper Guinean Forest. In contrast with other sites in the Upper Guinean Forest, deforestation in the Gola-Tiwai Complex is extremely low. It is also a stronghold of the globally threatened Western Chimpanzee and Pygmy Hippopotamus and of the iconic White-necked Rockfowl, and of cichlid fish and other freshwater taxa.

Criterion (ix): The Gola-Tiwai Complex lies within the area of highest rainfall in the Upper Guinean Forest zone. It is the westernmost surviving block of intact moist tropical forest in the Guinean Forests of West Africa biodiversity hotspot. As a result of the unique hydrological conditions, the Northern Upper Guinea area has been designated as a distinct freshwater ecoregion characterised by tropical and subtropical coastal rivers with an intricate hydrological network. The Northern Upper Guinea freshwater ecoregion has a distinct fish fauna and high levels of endemism in other taxonomic groups. For instance, the regional rivers of the Upper Guinea freshwater ecoregion, including those of the Gola-Tiwai Complex, are a cradle for Tilapia evolution.

The forest structure in the Gola-Tiwai Complex shares many characteristics with the broader Upper Guinean Forest coastal belt in which it is located. It also shares plant species with Mount Nimba and other forests to the northeast and with remaining forest fragments to the northwest that are not present at sites further east. Once part of a single contiguous forest extending to the northwest, northeast and southeast, the Greater Gola Landscape shares characteristics and species with other remaining fragments, thanks to its central location, whilst being distinct from the other fragments. The probable reason for this is the expansion and contraction of forests over time caused by changes to the global climate. This evolutionary process helps explain the high species richness and endemism of the Greater Gola Landscape and provides continued resilience in the face of climate change and the continuing fragmentation of the Upper Guinean Forest.

Criterion (x): As a result of the landscape characteristics and ecological processes described above, the Gola-Tiwai Complex is correspondingly unique when it comes to the diversity of its habitats and biodiversity, notably of its freshwater fish, bats, butterflies and orchids. The most important family of freshwater fish in the Gola-Tiwai Complex are Cichlidae, consisting of the two genera Tilapia and Sarotheradon. Eight Tilapia species occur in the average Sierra Leonean river basin, which stands out among other African lakes and river basins.

Primate biomass in the Gola-Tiwai Complex is among the highest in the world. The highly threatened chimpanzee subspecies, the Western Chimpanzee, whose population trend overall is on the decline, occurs in the Gola-Tiwai Complex at comparatively higher densities than elsewhere and is one of just seven exceptionally stable or high Western chimpanzee density sites and is an important area for the survival of the subspecies. The Greater Gola Landscape, of which the Gola-Tiwai Complex is part, is also a stronghold for the equally threatened Forest Elephant in west Africa. The rich bird fauna of the Gola-Tiwai Complex includes up to 448 species including globally important populations of the White-breasted Guineafowl, the Timneh Parrot and the flagship White-necked Rockfowl which nests on rock faces under the forest canopy and whose survival in this landscape may be due in part to its cultural significance for the local Mende people. Thanks to its steep slopes and rocky outcrops, the Gola-Tiwai Complex includes an

abundance of habitats suitable for nests of the White-necked Rockfowl. Invertebrates include over 500 species of butterfly and 140 species of dragonflies and damselflies.

Integrity

The majority of the Gola-Tiwai Complex consists of primary moist or semi-deciduous tropical rainforest that has never been commercially exploited. The remaining area consists of secondary vegetation that is regenerating naturally since commercial timber extraction and shifting cultivation ended in 2003. Deforestation rates are low compared to the Upper Guinean Forest more broadly. The four component parts that constitute the Gola-Tiwai Complex are sufficiently large together, and ecological connectivity between them sufficiently intact, to maintain viable populations of all but the widest-ranging species. Inventories and monitoring conducted at Gola and Tiwai since the 1980s indicate that all the species that would be expected in a block of Upper Guinean Forest in this location are present and their populations stable.

Activities within the formal buffer zone and the sustainable collection of non-timber forest products within the protected areas are governed by agreements signed with local communities and enforced using the authority of the paramount chiefs, section chiefs and village chiefs. Hunting and artisanal mining were widespread in the past but occur now only at very low levels. Surveys of primates since 2012 indicate that, even for taxa that were heavily hunted during armed conflict, populations have returned to similar levels to those observed in the 1980s and – in terms of biomass – are once again among the highest in the world.

Protection and management requirements

The effective protection and management of the Gola-Tiwai Complex is assured by the National Protected Area Authority of Sierra Leone, which has delegated the day-to-day management of the sites to the not-for-profit Gola Rainforest Conservation company (GRCLG) and the Tiwai Island Administrative Committee. The four directors of the GRCLG include the Government of Sierra Leone, the representatives of two national and international nongovernmental organisations, and an elected representative of the Paramount Chiefs of the seven chiefdoms around GRNP. At both Gola and Tiwai, the close engagement of local communities in the management of the protected areas is key for successful protection. Elsewhere, habitat fragmentation over the past two centuries has left very few large forest blocks intact.

Protection and management of GRNP is funded in part by carbon revenues from a Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) project that supports park management as well as the livelihoods of communities in the buffer zone. In addition, major donor agencies have consistently provided financial support for the conservation of the Gola-Tiwai Complex, indicating strong interest on the part of the global conservation community. Monitoring of biodiversity and park management indicators is conducted regularly and will be extended in coming years to include TIWS. Baseline monitoring data on biodiversity and the state of the forest dating back to the 1980s is available for both sites.

4. Requests the State Party to continue to explore the possibility of expanding the buffer zone of the Tiwai Island Wildlife Sanctuary component part in full consultation with the local communities concerned, towards developing a minor boundary modification request to provide a stronger layer of protection, ideally similar to the buffer zones of the property's other component parts;

5. Encourages the State Party of Sierra Leone to continue to build cooperation on management of the Gola-Tiwai Complex with the adjacent Gola Rainforest National Park (Liberia), and coordinate with the State Party of Liberia towards a significant boundary modification for a transboundary World Heritage property;

6. Commends the State Party for the close consultation and engagement with local communities, the high state of conservation in the Gola-Tiwai Complex and for the high-quality nomination dossier and supporting documentation.

A.1.2 Significant boundary modifications of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Decision: 47 COM 8B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2,
2. Approves the significant boundary modification of **iSimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa,** inscribed in 1999, to include **Maputo National Park, Mozambique,** to become the **iSimangaliso Wetland Park – Maputo National Park, Mozambique** and **South Africa**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii)**, **(ix)** and **(x)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park **–** Maputo National Park transboundary property is one of the most outstanding natural wetland and coastal sites of Africa, lying along the southern limit of the East African coastal plain. Covering a combined area of 397,471 ha, it includes a wide range of undisturbed marine, coastal, wetland, estuarine, freshwater and terrestrial environments which are scenically beautiful and largely intact. These include coral reefs, long sandy beaches, coastal dunes, lake systems, swamps, extensive wetlands, mangroves and seagrass beds, providing critical habitat for a wide range of species from southern Africa's marine environments, wetlands and savannahs. The interaction of these environments with major floods and coastal storms in the property's transitional location has resulted in continuing speciation and significant species diversity. Among the property's important natural phenomena are communities of nesting turtles, terrestrial and marine megafauna and large aggregations of waterfowl.

Criterion (vii): iSimangaliso Wetland Park **–** Maputo National Park includes a diverse mosaic of terrestrial, coastal and marine land and seascapes of exceptional beauty, with superlative scenic vistas along its coastline. From the clear waters of the Indian Ocean punctuated by colourful coral reefs to wide intact sandy beaches, a forested cordon of dunes and a network of wetlands, grasslands, estuarine systems, forests, freshwater lakes, mangroves, seagrass beds, coral reefs and savannah, the property has a richly textured landscape and exceptional aesthetic qualities. Outstanding natural phenomena include the shifting salinity status within Lake St. Lucia linked to wet and dry climatic cycles, the spectacle of large numbers of nesting turtles on the beaches and the abundance of marine megafauna including dolphins and migrating whales and Whale Shark and the large aggregations of waterfowl and large breeding colonies of pelicans, storks, herons and terns and the site's contribution to the East Asia-East Africa global flyway for migratory birds along the east coast of Africa.

Criterion (ix): The combination of fluvial, marine and aeolian processes in iSimangaliso Wetland Park **–** Maputo National Park has resulted in a variety of landforms. The property's transitional geographic location between sub-tropical and tropical Africa, as well as its coastal setting, have resulted in significant species and ecosystem diversity, including freshwater lakes and coastal lagoons, mangroves, seagrass meadows, and dunes. Speciation processes in the larger Maputaland Centre of Endemism, which this property sits within, are also ongoing and contribute another element to the diversity and

interplay of evolutionary processes at work in the property. In the marine components of the site, the sediments being transported by the Agulhas Current are trapped by submarine canyons on the continental shelf allowing for remarkably clear waters for the development of coral reefs. The interplay of this diverse environmental processes is further marked by major floods and coastal storms.

Criterion (x): The extensive range of interconnected habitats across terrestrial, coastal and marine areas within the property support a significant diversity of African biota, including numerous threatened and endemic species of flora and fauna. The species recorded for iSimangaliso are extensive, and population sizes for most of them remain viable. The over 6,500 plant and animal (including 521 bird) species recorded in

iSimangaliso Wetland Park include 11 species endemic to the protected area, 108 species endemic to South Africa, and 467 species listed as threatened in South Africa. Of the 4,935 species recorded in Maputo National Park at the time of the extension, 104 are assessed as threatened or near threatened according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened species, and 184 are endemic or near endemic to Mozambique (5), southern Africa (95) and the Western Indian Ocean (135). Notably, the vulnerable Loggerhead Turtle and Leatherback Turtle nest along the property's coastal dunes and sandy beaches, making it the second most important nesting site in the Indian Ocean. The extensive and diverse seagrass meadows in the waters of Inhaca Island's western shores in Maputo National Park, including vulnerable species such as Cape Dwarf-Eelgrass, shelter the last remaining Dugong population of Maputo Bay.

Integrity

The transboundary property is of sufficient size and retains most of the key attributes that are essential to express the scenic natural beauty, species diversity and maintain the long-term functioning of the ecosystems. The property consists of both marine and terrestrial elements: iSimangaliso Wetland Park consists of 13 separate but contiguous conservation units, whereas Maputo National Park follows the boundaries of the nationally designated national park (with the exclusion of the Futi Corridor). In South Africa the property possesses a nationally delineated buffer zone through a 'zone of influence', while in Mozambique, the buffer zone of the Maputo National Park, corresponding to the Maputo Environmental Protection Area, was recognised by the World Heritage Committee.

The state of conservation of the property is relatively secure, although the functioning of ecosystems and species diversity is prone to impacts from changes to the hydrological regime, extractive (subsistence or commercial) activities, development and tourism activities and therefore the impacts should be closely monitored, controlled and mitigated, to maintain the long-term integrity of the property and minimise threats.

Protection and management requirements

The property is owned by the respective states and strictly protected by the respective national legislation in South Africa and Mozambique. iSimangaliso Wetland Park is a nationally protected area, and management responsibility is at the provincial level under Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (previously known as the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service) and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority at the site level. Maputo National Park is also a nationally designed protected area and is managed by the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) with the support of Peace-Parks Foundation through a co-management agreement. The management of the property is guided by two separate comprehensive management plans (the management plan of Maputo National Park, Mozambique, and the management plan of iSimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa). However, an integrated management plan for the entire property should be a long-term ambition, in addition to the maintenance of protected area specific plans.

The transboundary management of the property benefits from longstanding cooperation between Mozambique and South Africa, primarily through the General Protocol on the Lubombo Development Initiative and the 2001 bilateral established Transboundary Management Committee. The Transboundary Management Committee is legally empowered to take decisions regarding the management of the transboundary area and foster cooperation. There is agreement by both States Parties on the expansion of the mandate of this Committee to be the official joint management authority for the transboundary property.

The property is impacted by a number of threats that will require sustained management efforts and engagement with local communities, including marine resource use and species conservation, land conversion for agriculture (particularly in the South African component), concerns related to human-wildlife conflict, and anthropogenic induced hydrological regime changes. It is essential to ensure that any development and tourism-related projects within and beyond the boundaries of the property are carefully considered and regulated to ensure compatibility with the maintenance of Outstanding Universal Value in the long-term.

4. Requests the State Party of Mozambique to continue its management efforts and monitoring of marine resources, including of sea turtle populations, and subsistence fisheries effort;

5. Notes with appreciation the commitment by the State Party of Mozambique to ensuring that the potential deep sea Techobanine Port Complex will not proceed within the property, and also requests the State Party to report the status of this proposed project by **1 December 2026**, through the procedures of the Convention, considering the significant impact such infrastructure, and any potential risks associated with port use, would likely have on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, even if located outside its boundaries;

6. Takes note that none of the pending requests for extractive industry within the buffer zone have begun the necessary process of assessment, and further requests the State Party of Mozambique to ensure that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is undertaken for any potential extractive activity in the buffer zone of Maputo National Park, including prospecting and research, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, to ensure that developments that could impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are not permitted, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026,** a report with updated information on the status of mining licenses and the outcomes of any Environmental Impact Assessment processes that may have been completed;

7. Notes that tourism development in Maputo National Park is expected to increase over the coming years, and requests furthermore the State Party of Mozambique to finalize the updating of its Tourism Plan and ensure that protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the transboundary property remains central to tourism management;

8. Recommends the prompt updating of the Community Action Plan for Maputo National Park to guide community engagement and requests moreover the State Party of Mozambique to finalize the human-wildlife conflict management plan;

9. Notes with appreciation the existing management plans for Maputo National Park and iSimangaliso Wetland Park and further urges the two States Parties to engage and agree on activities that will contribute to the development of a Joint Management Framework for the entire transboundary property;

10. Requests the States Parties of Mozambique and South Africa to pursue a joint Governance and management mechanism that will set up Joint Management structures for accountability and management purposes and ensure it is equipped with the

necessary capacity and financial resources to effectively manage the transboundary property;

11. Also recommends the States Parties of Mozambique and South Africa to ensure a harmonised approach to buffer zone management given that the State Party of South Africa is in the process of establishing a formal buffer zone for recognition by the World Heritage Committee through the future submission of a minor boundary modification request;

12. Finally requests the States Parties of Mozambique and South Africa 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 joint efforts and collaboration for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

A.1.3 Nominations deferred or referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee

Decision: 47 COM 8B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Inscribes the **Coastal and Marine Ecosystems of the Bijagós Archipelago – Omatí Minhô, Guinea-Bissau**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ix)** and **(x)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Coastal and Marine Ecosystems of the Bijagós Archipelago – Omatí Minhô include a continuous series of coastal and marine ecosystems, corresponding to the marine and intertidal environments of the best-preserved areas with the highest ecological value of the Bijagós Archipelago in Guinea-Bissau. The Bijagós Archipelago is the only active deltaic archipelago on the African Atlantic coast and one of the few in the world.

Shaped by important geological and ecological processes, such as upwelling, the convergence of longshore drift and other marine processes, favouring the mobilisation of sediments and the production and exchange of nutrients in the estuaries and mangroves of the Costa das Rias, these environments are fundamental to the productivity and diversity of marine and intertidal life; with mangroves, mudflats and sandbanks that ensure the maintenance of a rich marine biodiversity and important gatherings of aquatic birds; the presence of globally threatened and emblematic species, such as sea turtles, sharks, rays and manatees; and the crucial role in important migrations, such as the migrations of sea turtles in the Atlantic and the migration of birds in the important East Atlantic Flyway, among other ecological processes. Thus, the property is probably the most important site in Africa and one of the most important in the world in terms of sea turtle nesting, and the second most important foraging area in Africa for the East Atlantic Flyway, which is of global importance for migratory birds.

Criterion (ix): The Bijagós Archipelago is the only active deltaic archipelago on the Atlantic coast of Africa. The archipelago is particularly important, on the African continent as well as in the Atlantic Ocean and throughout the world, due in particular to the rugged coastline, the width of the continental shelf, the geological and ecological marine processes and land-sea interactions, and the presence of mangroves, estuaries and foreshore shoals. Its origin can be found in the characteristic layout of the islands and delta-shaped channels. The existence of the delta is determined by a series of processes

such as the tide, the sedimentary input from the Geba and Corubal rivers, the production and exchange of nutrients in the estuaries and mangroves of the Costa das Rias, upwelling and the convergence of the north and south littoral drifts, which favour the trapping of sediments. These dynamic processes, coupled with shallow areas and reefs, create conditions for high ecological productivity and an important food chain for the maintenance and conservation of life in the marine and intertidal environments where the availability of crustaceans, molluscs and other food sources favours large gatherings of water birds, sharks and rays, manatees, dolphins, sea turtles, among others, some of which are essential for the major migration routes.

The deltaic origin of the archipelago also explains the presence of freshwater species that have had to adapt to the progression of marine influences over the millennia. The most representative example is that of the Hippopotamus, the archipelago being the only place on the continent, and thus in the world, where the species lives in seawater on an almost permanent basis.

Criterion (x): The vast sand and mud banks and other foreshore habitats of the property constitute key environments for migratory and/or resident species, in particular wading birds, coastal and marine birds, and sea turtles, among other globally important and threatened species.

In these conditions, it constitutes the second most important feeding area in West Africa for the East Atlantic Flyway beyond the resident bird colonies. Total estimates range from around 200,000 to 850,000 birds. This includes nearly 105 species of waterbirds, including 53 resident Afrotropical species (from 18 families) and 50 Palaearctic and intra-African migratory species (from 19 families), out of a total of more than 283 species of birds throughout the archipelago.

Furthermore, it is probably the most important site in Africa and one of the most important in the world for nesting sea turtles. Five of the seven existing species of sea turtle frequent the Bijagós Archipelago: the Green Turtle, the Olive Ridley Turtle, the Hawksbill Turtle, the Leatherback Turtle and the Loggerhead Turtle. The nesting of Green Turtles is nevertheless the most remarkable, making the property the third most important area in the world, the second most important in the South Atlantic and the most important in the whole of Africa, in terms of the number of nests. Starting from an annual average of 27,251 Green Turtle nests between 2013 and 2017, the records have repeatedly reached almost 40,000 nests, and up to more than 62,000 in 2020, for the beaches of the islet of Poilão alone. Regional and transatlantic migrations of sea turtles have been recorded in association with the property.

The property is also a sanctuary for the diversity of sharks and rays, being probably the area with the greatest hopes among the three most important areas in the world for coastal elasmobranchs, and is renowned for the diversity of its fish populations, particularly cartilaginous fish, including the probable last specimens of sawfish on the West African coast. Further threatened species found in the property include African Manatee, dolphins – in particular the Atlantic Humpback Dolphin – and hippopotamuses living in marine habitats.

Integrity

The boundaries of the property encompass the best-preserved areas of the Bijagós Archipelago, which have the highest ecological value. The results of historical series and the monitoring data at the time of inscription show a high level of integrity of the property and its buffer zone, and do not show a declining trend in the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value. The main factors likely to affect the property and its buffer zone, such as pollution, fishing, navigation, infrastructure development, oil exploration, tourism and climate change, remain at very low and/or distant levels.

The components external to the property but which influence its functioning and its dynamic equilibrium are themselves in a remarkable state of integrity. The Geba and Corubal rivers, which supply the archipelago with sediment, have not been subject to major development to date. Their flow rates may be influenced by the climatic situation or by human activities likely to affect their catchment area, particularly in the Fouta Djalon massif in Guinea. However, they do not play a fundamental role in maintaining the functioning of the geo-ecological system of the Bijagós Archipelago.

The estuaries and mangroves of the Costa das Rias have not undergone any major transformation, with the exception of moderate pressure on the mangroves for the development of rice cultivation. The absence of industry or major infrastructure on the coastline, the very low intensity of maritime traffic and the low population densities result in a very low level of environmental degradation or minor marine pollution that finds little comparison elsewhere in the world. Although there may be places with some litter in the buffer zone (such as Bubaque), there is minimal evidence of pollution or contamination in the waters and sediments of the property, including possible damage to the birdlife that frequents it.

The geomorphological configuration of the archipelago, characterised by vast sand or mud banks and other intertidal habitats associated with shallow areas and reefs, constitute natural barriers to navigation in the Bijagós Archipelago. Artisanal and subsistence fishing remain relatively limited, and industrial fishing efforts are concentrated mainly in areas more than 10 nautical miles from the buffer zone and remain at very low levels (less than 100 hours of fishing effort on 8 km²). No oil exploration and/or exploitation operations are taking place within the property or its buffer zone, and the potential oil drilling areas known today are relatively far from the property. The tourism sector has developed within the archipelago over the past decades, but its development remains limited, however, with an average of only 45,000 visitors per year. In general, there are as yet no signs of significant changes in coastal patterns and the possibilities for transforming environments remain modest in view of technological capabilities.

However, there is a strong likelihood that climate change will bring about changes in water circulation patterns, as well as significant changes in sea level and, consequently, potential risks of erosion and sedimentation that differ from the current pattern.

Protection and management requirements

The exceptional state of conservation of the property is mainly due to the way the area is organised and the traditional management of resources by local communities and the efforts of various government departments and agencies of Guinea-Bissau since the 1980s and 1990s, which have made it possible to establish an adequate protection framework from a legal and/or customary point of view, notably the creation and sound management of the three marine protected areas of the Bijagós Archipelago – João Vieira and Poilão Marine National Park, Orango Islands National Park and the Formosa, Nago and Chediã Islands (Urok Islands) Community Marine Protected Area in 2000 and 2005. In addition, a development and integrated management plan for the Bolama-Bijagós Archipelago Biosphere Reserve, which encompasses the entire property and its buffer zone was adopted in 2023 and provides an overarching layer on top of the individual management plans for the protected areas.

At the international level, the Bijagós Archipelago is also recognised as a Biosphere Reserve and as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site). The overall coordination of the management of the property is ensured by the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas, Dr Alfredo Simão da Silva (IBAP). Since its creation in 2005, the work of the IBAP has been continuous and remarkable in the archipelago. It follows, deepens and improves the previous work of the Coastal Planning Office (Gabinete de Planificação Costeira - GPC), the National Institute of Studies and

Research (Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisas - INEP) and the Centre for Applied Fisheries Research (Centro de Investigação da Pesca Aplicada - CIPA), among other government bodies and secretariats. International technical and financial support has been systematic and significant throughout the process. IBAP has recently strengthened its guidelines for the archipelago, orienting the declaration of ecological corridors and the consideration of mangrove areas, shallows, sand and mud banks and other foreshore areas as fundamental elements of the Biosphere Reserve.

The inscription of the property shall therefore further strengthen its capacity to continue and improve the successful conservation work. In the future, it may be possible to extend the officially conserved area. In accordance with the proposal for official national recognition of the Bolama-Bijagós Archipelago Biosphere Reserve and its recent management plan, it is planned to carry out further studies and research and social dialogue in order to propose more than one protected area, around the Unhocomo and Unhocomozinho island complex, to propose the formation of areas reserved for fishing, particularly around the islands of Carache and Caravela and Enu, as well as areas for the reinforcement of land conservation on the islands of Caravela and Canhabaque, and the recovery of significant parts of Boloma island.

4. Commends the State Party for the successful implementation of the recommendations of Decision **37 COM 8B.17**, and thanks the Bijagó people for their contribution to the conservation of migratory sea and flyways by ensuring the integrity of the Bijagós ecosystem and for their outstanding work towards establishing community-based management using local and traditional knowledge and good practices in land and sea management;

5. Acknowledges the contributions from the international community in providing financial support to the Bolama-Bijagós Archipelago Biosphere Reserve, marine protected areas and all activities supporting this revised nomination;

6. Encourages the State Party to continue expanding the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas, Dr Alfredo Simão da Silva's capacity and resources, particularly for monitoring, surveillance and enforcement as well as to continue research towards a better understanding of the marine values of the property, including invertebrates and marine benthic habitat.

A.2 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A.2.1 New Nominations

Decision: 47 COM 8B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Refers the nomination of the **Eastern Mongolian Steppes, Mongolia,** back to the State Party, in order to allow it, with the advice of IUCN and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:

    a) Unequivocally abandon any mining licenses, in line with national legislation, within Toson-Khulstai Nature Reserve, and ensure the restoration of affected areas according to internationally accepted standards, and ensure effective legal guarantees that mining will not be permitted within the nominated areas,

b) Ensure to not expand any mining licenses and operations within the buffer zones of the nominated property, and to assess impacts of existing mining operations and potential proposals, if any, within the buffer zones in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,

c) Finalise the boundaries of the protected areas of the nominated component parts of Jaran Togoo “A” Nature Reserve and Jaran Togoo “B” Nature Reserve,

d) Designate buffer zones for all nominated component parts and enhance connectivity between the nominated component parts through the creation of effectively functioning migration corridors,

e) Ensure valid management plans are in place for all nominated component parts, supported by adequate funding and staffing levels across all nominated component parts,

f) Complete and update species data for each nominated component part to enable a full assessment of the potential of the nominated property under criterion (x), including an update of the comparative analysis demonstrating potential Outstanding Universal Value under criterion (x);

3. Requests the State Party to include in its further submission of information, a clear demonstration that there is effective and long-term implementation of protection and management of all the nominated component parts, in line with their legal status, and to:

   a) Include in the management plan information and measures on monitoring of population trends of threatened species as well as on threats,

   b) Ensure that the strengthened and effective long-term legal protection of all of the nominated component parts is demonstrated,

   c) Establish a joint management committee with an integrated management plan for the entire nominated property;

4. Notes with appreciation the State Party’s efforts to include local stakeholders in the planning for the nominated property, and also requests the State Party to assure in the conservation approaches to the nominated property that the long-standing traditional herding communities are fully included in governance and management arrangements, and that their sustainable use of the nominated property and wider landscapes is recognised and supported.

A.2.2 Significant boundary modifications of properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List

Decision: 47 COM 8B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Approves the significant boundary modification of **Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, Viet Nam,** to include **Hin Nam No National Park, Lao People’s Democratic Republic,** to become **Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park and Hin Nam No National Park, Lao People’s Democratic Republic** and **Viet Nam**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (viii), (ix)** and **(x)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park and Hin Nam No National Park property is one of the most outstanding and intact limestone karst landscapes and ecosystems in the world. Located at the confluence of the Annamite Mountain Range and Central Indochina Limestone Belt, and straddling the border of Viet Nam and Lao People's Democratic Republic, the property comprises a combined area of 217,447 hectares. The karst formation has evolved since the Palaeozoic period approximately 400 million years ago and can be considered the oldest large-scale karst area in Asia. The diversity of ecosystems found within this complex landscape of interbedded rock types and depressions, include high-altitude, dry karst forest, moist and dense low-elevation forests and extensive subterranean cave environments. Among these underground formations are over 220 km of documented caves and underground river systems, many of which are spectacular and globally significant. The unique and globally significant biodiversity (including several endemic species) that inhabits these ecosystems is no less impressive.

Criterion (viii): The transboundary property is among the largest intact humid tropical karst systems globally. The distinctive topography and diversity of the karst landscape is formed from the complex interbedding of limestone karst with shales, sandstone and granite. On the surface, a diversity of polygonal karst features has been recorded nowhere else, at the time of extension. Underground, an extraordinary diversity of caves (including dry, terraced, dendritic and intersecting caves) provide evidence of past geological processes, from ancient, abandoned river passages or changes in river routes, to the deposition and later re-solution of giant speleothems. Of particular significance, are the Son Doong and Xe Bang Fai caves which contain the world's largest documented cave passage in terms of diameter and continuity and, largest active river cave passage and single cave gour pool (water formed by calcite deposits) respectively.

Criterion (ix): The property protects globally significant ecosystems within the Northern Annamites Rainforests terrestrial ecoregion, Northern Annam and Southern Annam freshwater ecoregions and Annamite Range Moist Forests priority ecoregions. The complexity and relative intactness of the limestone landscape has led to the creation of multiple ecological niches and provided the opportunity for eco-evolutionary and speciation processes to occur at the landscape level. As a result, the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park and Hin Nam No National Park property is home to various highly-specialised and endemic species of flora and fauna both aboveground (such as a number of orchid and begonia species) and below-ground (with some invertebrate and fish species restricted to single cave systems).

Criterion (x): A rich terrestrial, freshwater and subterranean biodiversity can be found within the transboundary property, and reported species numbers, at the time of inscription and of the extension, are likely to be a significant under-representation of the actual species diversity. The over 2,700 species of vascular plants and 800 vertebrate species recorded in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park include 237 globally threatened species at the time of inscription and 400 species endemic to the central Lao People's Democratic Republic and/or Viet Nam. Over 1,500 species of vascular plants (from 755 different genera) and 536 vertebrate species have been recorded in Hin Nam No National Park, including many globally threatened and endemic species, including the Giant Huntsman Spider, the largest spider by leg span globally and endemic to the Lao Khammouane Province. The species richness of the property is likely to exceed the individual richness of the two national parks respectively due to topographical and niche differences. Importantly, the property hosts 10-11 species of primates, four of which are endemic to the Annamite Mountain range. These include the largest remaining population of Southern White-cheeked Gibbon and the endemic Black Langur.

Integrity

The transboundary property completes representation of the large, dissected karst plateau and represents a block of intact forest ecosystems within the Annamite mountains and therefore retains all key attributes to manifest the outstanding geological, ecological and biodiversity-related values present within. The property follows the respective national protected area boundaries and zonation is split into three management zones – strictly protected, ecological restoration and administrative/service zone – for Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, and into two zones – controlled use and totally protected zone – for Hin Nam No National Park. A buffer zone surrounds the entire property and covers 295,889 hectares and encompasses the respective watersheds of the karst.

The state of conservation varies across the property's area at the time of the transboundary extension in 2025 and is most secure in the Hin Nam No National Park although a number of issues persist and threaten future integrity. The geodiversity, ecosystems and biodiversity are particularly prone to impacts from illegal hunting and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and forest products, invasive alien species particularly in the eastern part of the property, infrastructure development, land-use change and sustainable tourism. These impacts should be closely monitored and controlled and mitigated, ensuring they occur within the ecological carrying capacity of the property to maintain the long-term integrity of the property and minimise threats.

Protection and management requirements

The property is owned by the respective States Parties and protected under the highest legal designation in Viet Nam and in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Phong Nha-Ke Bang is a nationally designated national park, first established in 1986 and then enhanced in 2001. Management responsibility falls under the Management Board at the site level with input from various ministries and levels of government. Hin Nam No is also a nationally designated national park, first established in 1993 and enhanced in 2020. It is managed by a complex and collaborative governance structure including representatives at the national, provincial, district and village level, including strong community involvement, and a management office at the site level. The management of the property is guided by two separate comprehensive management plans – the Hin Nam No National Park Collaborative Management Plan and the Strategic Management Plan Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park World Heritage Site.

The transboundary management of the property benefits from several signed memoranda of understanding for joint activities such as law enforcement operations and the development of a joint transboundary action plan, which is essential for the integrated management of the property.

The Phong Nha Ke-Bang National Park and Hin Nam No National Park property is impacted by a number of threats that will require sustained management efforts and engagement with local communities, including unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, forest products and biodiversity, land conversion for agriculture and increased development and tourism pressures particularly in the eastern part of the property. It is essential to ensure that any development and tourism-related projects within and beyond the boundary of the property are carefully assessed, limited and regulated to ensure compatibility with the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value in the long-term.

4. Commends the State Party of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the thorough participatory approach in developing this nomination and in obtaining the free, prior and informed consent, in addition to efforts to engage and include local communities in the governance and management of the property;

5. Recommends the State Party of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to further increase the capacity of the Hin Nam No National Park Management Office and ensure

that sufficient staffing is available for the long-term protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value;

6. Encourages the State Party of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to consider expansion of the property's buffer zone, through a minor boundary modification, to include the entirety of the Khun Xe Nong Ma National Protected Area as an important area to the functioning of the karst hydrological system;

7. Also encourages the States Parties of Viet Nam and Lao People's Democratic Republic to explore the potential of extending the southern boundary of the property in Viet Nam to be aligned with Hin Nam No National Park in the Lao People's Democratic Republic;

8. Takes note of the expected increased tourism development in Hin Nam No National Park, and considering the further planned expansion of tourism in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park towards 2030, requests the States Parties of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam to ensure that the protection of the transboundary property's Outstanding Universal Value remains central to tourism management and that tourism is limited by the ecological carrying capacity of the property.

A.3 EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

A.3.1 New nominations

Decision: 47 COM 8B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Noting that additional information provided by the State Party shows that adequate protection is in place for the enlarged area of the property, and that there is a sound commitment from the State Party to further involve local communities and relevant stakeholders;

3. Inscribes **Møns Klint, Denmark**, on the World Heritage List, on the basis of **criterion (viii)**;

4. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The property of Møns Klint is a coastal chalk cliff with exceptional geological and scenic qualities. The white cliffs consist of large sheets of Cretaceous chalk that has been bulldozed up into one of the world's largest glaciotectonic complexes during the last glaciation period, locally known as the Weichsel glaciation.

The complex in its entirety is one of the largest known well described glacial complexes in the world, and spans almost five kilometers inland, represented by parallel marginal ridge hills from three different glacio-directions. However, the uniqueness of the complex lies in the outstanding and large-scaled cross section of the complex, exposed in a spectacular cliff profile that reveals the inner architecture of the entire complex from south to north, and at the same time offers a magnificent visual experience for the viewer.

The coastal cliff profile on the easternmost tip of this extensive glaciotectonic complex contains the primary physiographical attributes, representing the Outstanding Universal Value of the site. Erosional forces from waves and weathering has exposed a spectacular cross-section, with an outstanding exposure of more than 6 km, and a structural relief extending 200 meters from the base to the top of the complex. The steep

white cliffs, more than 120 meters above sea level, form jagged towers of whiteness above turquoise waters, stony black flint beaches, and crowned by green beech tree forests on top.

Criterion (viii): Møns Klint is an outstanding example of a major stage in the history of Earth: The glacial landscape formation and mountain building of the Pleistocene Epoch. It moreover represents significant geomorphic and physiographic features, in the form of a well exposed cross section through one of the world's largest glaciotectonic complexes, and it provides a unique testimony of the advances of specific glacial ice streams, including their extent, fast flow and dynamics. For the same reason, the site has played a key-role in the scientific history and acknowledgement of glaciotectonics, including important methodological contributions to the scientific discipline of glaciotectonism.

Integrity

The Møns Klint property represents a classic glaciotectonic complex, encompassed by a dramatic and scenic coastal landscape. The cliff profile covers the complete deformational history of a glacial advance, complete with a steep proximal imbricate section to the south, a central and highly deformed antiformal stack, and a distal section of thrust faults to the north.

The primary element of the complex is the exposed cross section: The cliff profile, which offers the most spectacular vistas and a unique insight into the complex glaciotectonic structures. However, to understand the true scale and evolution of the complex, also the marginal hills that continue back into the landscape are of scientific and visual importance.

They provide an important overview of the morphological structures throughout the entire complex, including the number and direction of the glacial advances that created the glaciotectonic structures and formed the landscape. They thereby also provide an illustrative example of the classic glacio-landscape that Pleistocene glaciers have impacted and formed throughout the Northern Hemisphere, and that now cover immense parts of the continental lowland areas, corresponding largely to the fertile areas that house and feed a large portion of the Earth' population today. In the most prominent marginal hills, that are included as an integral part of the property, the chalk is completely exposed in the surface, as is the case in the entire nominated property.

Protection and management requirements

The Møns Klint area has been iconic to Denmark for centuries, and thus well protected for its natural and scenic values for more than a century.

The 6 km coastline of the cliffs, including the cliffside edge 300 meters inland, is well protected by the national 'Beach Protection Line', with no sections missing or being inaccessible.

The Outstanding Universal Value in the area, will be protected and sustained by protecting the nature surrounding the cliff profile, as well as the geomorphological structures of the landscapes, however erosional dynamics are considered part of the outstanding value itself, and thus not covered by the conservational efforts.

The protective legislation in the area cover all remaining natural protection, not least the conservation of features in the landscape, covered by the 'Høje Møn Protection' who prevents any change in terrain or planting of trees or construction of buildings, to disturb the unhindered views of the landscape. Conservational efforts within the nominated property, include: clearing of certain parts of the forest (supporting biodiversity as well as visibility of geological features), protecting other parts of the forest (by preventing forestry), protecting viewpoints and calcareous grasslands from overgrowth – and also distribution of visitors (away from areas of specific vulnerability).

The Danish Nature Agency is responsible for natural management on most of the property, and the private Klintholm Estate of the remaining part, and all parties follow sustainable strategies for the development and management in the area.

5. Requests the State Party to further invest in management arrangements with respect to the expanded property and its buffer zone;

6. Recommends that the State Party gives consideration to explore strengthening the protection of geoheritage at the property through the establishment of a geoheritage inventory, the development of a geoheritage management plan, including an ongoing programme of coastal erosion and climate change monitoring, detailing the governance for the enlarged area of the property and its buffer zone, and determining gateway and access points and the ecological and social carrying capacity of the property and its buffer zone;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2026**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

A.4 LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

A.4.1 New nominations

Decision: 47 COM 8B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Inscribes **Peruaçu River Canyon, Brazil,** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (vii)** and **(viii)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Peruaçu River Canyon, located in the northern part of Minas Gerais state, southeastern Brazil, covers an area of 38,003 hectares. Situated in the semi-arid tropics, the property encompasses a spectacular karst landscape entirely contained within the Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park.

Stretching over 21 kilometers with a vertical variation exceeding 200 meters, the canyon reveals exceptional evidence of fluvial karstification, with six major collapse points exposing sections of an underground river that shaped large cave passages — some reaching 100 meters in height and 60 meters in width. Janelão Cave, one of the most prominent features of the site, contains approximately 3 kilometres of river passages, more than half of which are illuminated by vast skylights that sustain forest ecosystems within the subterranean landscape. The property is equally remarkable for its exceptional natural beauty, exemplified by the dramatic interplay of light and vegetation within its vast cave systems and the contrast between the semi-arid surface and lush interior chambers.

The Peruacu river basin has the most outstanding example of karstification of a river system, so far recognised and reported.

The property stands out with its extraordinary contrast between thin low seasonally dry xerophytic forest on the surface and hidden-world sunken islands of lush forest ecosystems ringed by precipitous cliffs below the surface.

Although the property was not inscribed under biodiversity or cultural criteria, it is located in a transitional region between two of Brazil's most important biomes with fragments of a third: the Cerrado, the Caatinga, and fragments of the Atlantic Forest. This characteristic of the park provides a mosaic of landscapes and habitats, reflecting in the diversity and richness of its vegetation cover. There are 950 identified species of fauna and 1,072 species of flora recorded.

The property also holds significant rock art values.

The entire property lies within a strictly protected area, the Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park, established in 1999 under Brazilian federal legislation.

Criterion (vii): Superlative natural phenomena or natural beauty or aesthetic importance

The Peruaçu River Canyon, located within the Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park, comprises a vast terrain of karst canyons, caves, and associated rich biodiversity that together form a landscape of exceptional beauty. The nomination includes monumental karst landscape; extraordinary speleothems and geological formations; and unique biodiversity in an ecological transition zone. The karstification processes are displayed with breathtaking clarity and beauty, including a vertical variation of over 200 meters and successive collapse dolines, as well as colossal caves at various levels, with magnificent and diverse speleothem decorations, cliffs, towers, limestone arches, karren, natural bridges, stone forests, including some exceptionally large-sized examples of such features. The skylights from the semi-arid surface to the lush vegetation of the underworld support spectacular and beautiful vistas, whether viewed from above or from below. In particular, the Janelão Cave features impressive passages, with widths and heights exceeding 100 meters. Within it, immense openings allow the entry of sunlight, enabling vegetation to flourish in the vast chambers, contrasting with contrasting with the striking architectural appearance of the rock formations and the semi-arid conditions at the land surface. Taken together, the geological and biological elements create a well-preserved and exceptionally scenic landscape.

Criterion (viii): Earth's history and geological features

The Peruaçu River basin contains the most extraordinary known and documented example of karstification of a fluvial system in the world. The landscape of the nominated property is an outstanding example of karst landforms in seasonally arid tropics and subtropics. Developed in carbonate rock, the distinct controlling geological factors and past climate changes that formed the nominated property are clearly evident, in particular an unusually stable tectonic environment in which the karst evolved: the São Francisco craton. With its genesis linked to the local fluviokarst, the canyon is understood to have developed underground until its opening process occurred in the Plio-Pleistocene. Global climatic changes in the Quaternary are thought to have generated the deepening of the local base level, leading to significant collapses along the fluviokarst, from the Middle to Upper Pleistocene and creating the long, horizontal passages of the nominated property. The large caves feature a diverse array of speleothems and are characterized by horizontal passages of notable heights, resulting from major underground stream flows during past hydrologic regimes. The consequences and processes of cavern collapse are easily observed from above and below.

Throughout its 21 kilometers, the Canyon features a vertical variation of over 200 meters and successive collapse dolines, as well as colossal caves at various levels, with magnificent and diverse speleothem decorations, cliffs, towers, limestone arches, karren, natural bridges, and stone forests. The property contains the downstream section of the main underground water course, including the Janelão Cave, which contains 2.8 km of very impressive river passage and huge collapse skylights supporting forest ecosystems. As a highlight of this setting, on the edge of the Macacos doline lies what is considered the world's largest stalactite: the "Perna da Bailarina", measuring

approximately 28 meters in length. Together, the geological and biological elements form a well-preserved landscape of exceptional scenic value.

Integrity

The nominated property is sheltered by the Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park (CPNP), an integrally protected area under Brazilian legislation established in 1999. The entire extent of the Peruaçu River Canyon is included in the site. The karst in the region involves a significant set of about 500 cavities, including sinkholes, various caves, and a large collection of associated formations that express the diversity of the karstic environment and are well-preserved.

The applicable legislation is stringent regarding national parks as it prohibits any permanent human use. Tourism within the property (which includes several walking trails to visit caves and archaeological sites) is well managed. Access to caves is regulated by the park, with only certified guides allowed to accompany visitors.

The main threats to the Park's integrity arise from human occupation and the use of water resources in the Peruaçu River basin upstream of the Park, through livestock farming and agriculture. Ensuring the perenniality of water resources in a semi-arid environment is the greatest challenge for the longterm maintenance of the area.

Protection and management requirements

The Peruaçu Canyon is fully encompassed within the Cavernas do Peruaçu National Park, established by Federal Decree on September 21st, 1999. The Park is classified as a strict protection area, with nature conservation as its primary objective.

The Park's Management Plan, approved in 2005, guides conservation-focused management and includes specific guidelines for the protection of speleological heritage, implemented with technical support from CECAV — the National Center for Research and Conservation of Caves, a specialized unit of Brazil's Biodiversity Conservation Institute (ICMBio).

The system established to provide protection and adequate management for the area is complex due to a combination of National Park and State Park, and the presence of a variety of stakeholders. While the management of the property meets the requirements of the Operational Guidelines, an integrated management plan is necessary and should give adequate emphasis not only to biodiversity values and to the protection of rock art, but also to the protection of vulnerable geological and geomorphological features and processes, which give the property its Outstanding Universal Value. The role of Indigenous peoples and local communities in the management of the area should be further promoted, for example, through community-based ecological tourism initiatives.

4. Recommends the State Party to adapt the management plan of the property to:

   a) Address the vulnerable geological and geomorphological features and processes which give the property its Outstanding Universal Value and ensure that sufficient geological expertise is available, to complement a strong and continuing commitment to biodiversity conservation,

   b) Further promote the participation of local Indigenous peoples in the governance and management of the property, including in ecological tourism development,

   c) Include the conservation of the rock art sites of the property and cultural values considered important by the Indigenous, traditional and quilombola communities in the management plan and that conservation specialists and community representatives are invited to set out the parameters for visitation, necessary monitoring regimes, and the overall conservation constraints that might be necessary to limit visitor numbers,

d) Further consolidate the management structure, and ensure that the management requirements established by the Operational Guidelines are communicated and understood by all stakeholders, rightsholders, landowners and management authorities, taking into account the guidance provided in *Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit 2.0*;

5. Encourages the State Party to conduct further research and documentation on both the cultural and biodiversity values of the property, in addition to the recognised Outstanding Universal Value related to geodiversity;

6. Takes note of the commitment assumed by the State Party to:

   a) Propose to the World Heritage Committee the extension of the property's boundaries to encompass Indigenous areas, should the concerned community express interest in having part of their lands recognized as part of the property, in order to reinforce the property's buffer zone,

   b) guarantee the continued access of the Indigenous Xacriabá community to the northern section of the national park, in line with customary use and in accordance with the management plan of the area, and,

   c) Take measures to promote sustainable development opportunities in Indigenous lands located in the vicinity of the property, in order to ensure that the property is well integrated into its broader territorial context and provides benefits for local communities, in line with paragraphs 112, 119, and 214bis of the Operational Guidelines;

7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2027**, a report on the above-mentioned recommendations and especially regarding the commitments mentioned in paragraph 6, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

B. MIXED SITES

B.1 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

B.1.1 New nominations

Decision: 47 COM 8B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B, WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2,

2. Inscribes the **Mount Kumgang – Diamond Mountain from the Sea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea,** with the exception of component parts Haemanmulsang Area in Sea Kumgang (003) and Chongsokjong Area in Sea Kumgang (004), on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape, on the basis of **criteria (iii)** and **(vii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   Mount Kumgang – Diamond Mountain from the Sea is a long-celebrated place of exceptional natural beauty boasting outstanding scenery of lofty peaks, plunging valleys, waterfalls, pools and striking weathered rock formations. The property exhibits outstanding examples of geomorphological structure with several classic types of

weathering. Spectacular near-white, polished granite geomorphology is set within pristine lush forests, grasslands, wetlands and sub-alpine shrublands at the higher elevations of nearly 1,600 metres above sea level. The mountain's dramatic impact is enhanced through constantly changing weather patterns of mists, rain, sunshine and clouds. The property's arresting landscapes are further transformed by each of the four seasons. Uninterrupted vistas from Mount Kumgang's ridgetops to the coastline attest to the intimate relationship of the property to the sea.

Mount Kumgang is an associative cultural landscape where there is a complex and intertwined relationship between the distinctive landforms and scenery, and the long history of Buddhism, pilgrimage and traditions of mountain worship in the Korean peninsula. As the eastern guardian of the Buddhist realm, the serial property of two component parts demonstrates exceptional aspects of Korean mountain Buddhist culture over many centuries, and is a place that many Buddhists aspire to visit within their lifetimes.

The landscape setting of steep granite peaks, rock formations, waterfalls and pools are integral to the long traditions of Buddhist pilgrimage, and the many famed literary and artistic representations of Mount Kumgang. The intangible cultural heritage of this landscape is further reflected in the naming of key features, poems and folk tales.

Buddhist hermitages date from the 5th century, and some of the very earliest remaining examples are found within the Outer Kumgang-Inner Kumgang Area component part. Temples, pagodas, steles, stupas, sculptures and stone lanterns attest to the sequence of development of Korean mountain Buddhism. The property also features significant examples of carved calligraphy and historic trails to famed scenic viewpoints. Some of the cultural heritage attributes also contain evidence of the intermingling of Buddhism with Taoism and local spirituality, such as mountain gods, the Great Bear, and wild animals. Three of the temples within the Outer Kumgang-Inner Kumgang Area component part are continuing places of Buddhist practices.

Criterion (iii): Mount Kumgang is a sacred mountain and bears an exceptional testimony to Korean mountain Buddhism traditions from the 5th century CE to the present. The traditions and practices of Buddhism over many hundreds of years and the historical role of Mount Kumgang as a major place are central to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and demonstrate the ways in which the natural and cultural heritage attributes are intertwined. The extant temples, hermitages, stupas and stone engravings demonstrate these characteristics, in addition to the many songs, poems and artworks inspired by Mount Kumgang. The built attributes, together with continuing Buddhist practices and other associated intangible cultural heritage aspects demonstrate an exceptional inter-relationship between the tangible, intangible and scenic attributes of the associative cultural landscape.

Criterion (vii): The property exhibits an exceptionally rich diversity of distinctive near-white granite geomorphology, dramatically set within pristine biodiversity all subject to the interplay of seasonal variation and constantly changing meteorological conditions. Mount Kumgang – Diamond Mountain from the Sea possesses enormous variety in its landforms from the differing relief on both sides of the range, numerous waterfalls and ponds, pristine water quality and varied seasonal colour palettes. The awe-inspiring natural beauty of the property is evident in the long association between human cultures and the place, the physical expressions of calligraphy, hermitages, temples and other elements juxtaposed with natural features and in the inspiration that artists, poets, religious leaders, pilgrims and people of all walks have drawn from the place in the past and continue to do so. The property affords uninterrupted vistas to the nearby coastline, a central element in the recognition of Mount Kumgang's significance as a sacred mountain.

Integrity

The property contains the cultural and natural heritage attributes required to demonstrate the Outstanding Universal Value. The substantial area enclosed by the boundaries is appropriate and provides sufficient protection of the cultural heritage attributes and the associative cultural landscape. The large buffer zone provides an added layer of protection, particularly against visual impacts on the integrity of the cultural landscape, and for the cultural meaning and importance of scenic locations and look-outs. The cultural heritage attributes are well-maintained with minimal threats, including those natural elements that can be considered to be attributes of the cultural landscape. Appropriate policies and management arrangements are in place to mitigate potential future threats from visitor pressures and tourism development.

The property includes all the elements and is of a sufficient size, design and boundary configuration to encompass the range of granitic geomorphological features and processes as well as the wide variety of attributes that collectively express the natural beauty and aesthetic value of the site. The property's naturalness is a key aspect of its exceptional natural beauty and protects near untouched natural ecosystems across six vertical vegetation zones reaching to the property's ridgetop at over 1,600 metres above sea level. The catchments of all streams, waterfalls, pools and lagoons are located within the property thereby ensuring high standards of water quality. The property protects critical geosites and scenic features as well as the processes which sustain them. Walking trails and lookout access allow a full appreciation of the property's natural and aesthetic value from ridgetop to the sea.

Areas surrounding the property have a history that is relatively free from large scale development and the natural systems of the property are in excellent to pristine condition due to low development pressure and long periods of strict protection. The wider region around Mount Kumgang is relatively undeveloped and the buffer zone has no reported industrial scale development, mining or commercial fishing activity. Agriculture and pastoralism in the buffer zone are restricted to small scale, mostly non-mechanised practices. The two most significant potential threats to the property are future tourism development; and climate change-driven increases in natural hazards.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the property has been established on the basis of the condition of the historic temples and other Buddhist elements (stone carvings, steles, sculptures and pagodas), archaeological sites, key natural features, and historical paths. Wooden structures such as the Phyohun Temple, Jongyang Temple, Podok Hermitage, Pulji Hermitage, and Chilsong Shrine of Mahayon Buddhist School site exhibit a high degree of authenticity in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value, although they are vulnerable due to their fragile materials, the need for continuing cultural knowledge and the need for ongoing conservation and maintenance. These structures are part of continuing Buddhist practices that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the cultural landscape. While there are satisfactory conservation policies in place, the overall authenticity of the timber buildings and their tanchong (polychrome schemes) varies due to these factors, as well as the impacts of past damages. Conservation plans for the temples is recommended in order to further secure their authenticity and state of conservation.

Protection and management requirements

The property is State-owned and principally protected by the Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Protection of Cultural Heritage (amended and supplemented in 2018) and the Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Protection of Scenic Spots and Natural Monuments (amended and supplemented in 2018). These laws are supplemented by a range of other laws and regulations covering land, nature reserves, environment, forestry, urban management and marine pollution.

The World Heritage property and buffer zone sits almost entirely within the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve which affords an additional protective and sustainable development context.

A number of the individually significant cultural heritage sites within the property are listed on the national register as either National Treasures or Preservation Heritage sites. There is also one protective designation for intangible cultural heritage associated with the property (Mount Kumgang Legend).

The governance system, whilst complex, involves various levels of government and places the National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (NAPCH) as the central authority with oversight of the heritage values of the property. The management system, staffing and budgets are adequate given the low levels of use and low threats at the time of inscription. However, careful attention and anticipation will be needed to ensure a commensurate management capacity is in place in the face of planned significant tourism development within the property and the wider region.

While there are legal provisions for Environmental Impact Assessment, there are no explicit legal frameworks in place for Heritage Impact Assessment. The National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (NAPCH) conducts heritage impact assessments for developments within and near the property.

The management system is the responsibility of the Cabinet and the NAPCH. The NAPCH is responsible for the protection of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and both natural and cultural heritage, enabling cultural and natural heritage to be coherently administered. Day to day management and maintenance of the property is provided by local caretakers. The Buddhist Federation of Korea closely cooperates with relevant institutions responsible for the protection and management of the property. The buffer zone is monitored and managed by the respective local authorities (the People's Committees of Kosong, Kumgang and Thongchon counties).

Management of the site is guided by a Management Plan (2021-2030), including an action plan for its implementation. It should be revised and updated in line with the proposed Mount Kumgang Tourism Development Plan to ensure the protection of Mount Kumgang's Outstanding Universal Value is paramount. The Mount Kumgang Tourism Development Plan elaborates the directions for future tourism development, based on the policy framework of the management plan. The configuration of the buffer zone coupled with use and development controls provides an effective layer of additional protection for the property and facilitates important connectivity from the property's ridgetops to the sea.

4. Requests the State Party to:

   a) Finalize the Mount Kumgang Tourism Development Plan as a matter of priority to understand tourism-related proposals at a detail sufficient to allow meaningful assessment of environmental and heritage impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value and to assess management capacity needs in light of projected increased tourism use and ensuring that the fragile cultural heritage attributes are protected,

   b) Undertake a holistic Strategic Environmental Assessment as a strategic planning tool to assess the collective and cumulative impacts, both positive and negative, of tourism development plans ensuring appropriate development that prioritizes the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value,

   c) Consider the best ways to incorporate Heritage Impact Assessment into relevant legal frameworks, and ensure that individual tourism-related and other developments are subject to project level environmental and heritage impact assessment undertaken in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context,

d) Update the current management plan for the property to take into account tourism development plans and to make the plan more operational with measurable indicators to assess outcomes,

e) Develop a values-centred interpretation plan based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,

f) Develop conservation plans and policies for the key cultural heritage attributes that set out a vision for their conservation, as well as preservation, interpretation and monitoring, in particular, develop conservation policies and plan for the wooden structures to ensure retention of their authenticity,

g) Complete the inventory and assessment of the stone carvings and historic trails and paths found within the property in order to enable their inclusion in the national register,

h) Review the registered boundaries of the temples and hermitages in the national register, taking into consideration the underlying geomancy of their locations and siting,

i) Undertake capacity-buildings programmes and activities with caretakers,

j) Develop a cultural heritage research plan for the property, including archaeological surveys, non-invasive studies and excavations within the component parts,

k) Support the continuing traditions of Buddhist practice at the Buddhist temples and other sites within the property;

5. Encourages the State Party to enhance protection and management and management capacities and to seek external technical support on a range of issues including tourism planning and management, visitor infrastructure design and development (including climbing/walking trails and road upgrading), visitor safety measures, impact assessment and disaster risk management, and to apply relevant international standards and benchmarks in this regard, in consultation with IUCN and ICOMOS.

C. CULTURAL SITES

C.1 AFRICA

C.1.1 New Nominations

Decision: 47 COM 8B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape of the Mandara Mountains, Cameroon**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape, on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape of the Mandara Mountains is located in the Far North Region of Cameroon. It is organised, in the form of terraces, around a group of sixteen archaeological ruins, or Diy-Gid-Biy, spread across seven villages associated with agricultural terraces. These dry-stone architectural structures were probably built

between the 12th and 17th centuries. While the identity of their builders remains unknown, the property is currently mainly occupied by the Mafa people, who settled in the region between the 15th and 17th centuries. The expression “Diy Gid Biy” literally means “Ruin of the Chief’s Residence” in the Mafa language. Today, the Diy-Gid-Biy are used by the communities as religious sites. On the slopes and at the base of the mountain there are agricultural terraces, residential buildings, tombs, places of worship and many artisan activities.

Criterion (iii): The Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape of the Mandara Mountains is a unique testament to a now-vanished civilisation, which created a remarkable dry-stone architecture, organised into terraces, that is very rare in sub-Saharan Africa. Although little is known about this civilisation, it shaped the landscape over a period of more than five centuries (from the 12th to the 17th century). These sixteen Diy-Gid-Biy ruins are characterised by their atypical dry-stone architecture, their location in a remote mountainous region, their designation as chiefs’ residences and the pottery they contain, which was originally used for ritual purposes.

The Mafa who now live in the area play a significant role in perpetuating the landscape by continuing to use the structures as sacrificial and ritual sites.

Integrity

The integrity of the property lies in the archaeological structures and terraces, which are fully integrated into the Mandara Mountains area. All the attributes necessary to convey in a substantial manner the Outstanding Universal Value of the property are included within the boundaries of the property. However, the integrity of the property is very vulnerable, due to the degraded condition of the structures, combined with challenges related to political insecurity, the growing effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

Authenticity

The property presents a high degree of authenticity, due to the richness of its built structures. The Diy-Gid-Biy, fully integrated into the cultural and worship practices that shape the daily lives of the Mafa people, are thus being actively preserved. Extensive scientific research should provide insights into the origins, techniques and construction processes of the Diy-Gid-Biy, their previous functions and, ultimately, the civilisation of the people who built them.

Protection and management requirements

The Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape of the Mandara Mountains has been listed as a National Heritage Site by Ministerial Order No. 0002/MINAC/SG of 28 February 2019. It is also protected under the Law of 18 April 2013 governing the cultural heritage of Cameroon, which protects listed sites. The property is also subject to a set of traditional protections and taboos prohibiting access to the Diy-Gid-Biy ruins outside of rituals.

Careful monitoring and land-use planning instruments are essential complements to legal protection for the long-term protection, conservation and transmission to future generations of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value.

The management of the property, which falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC) in collaboration with local communities and decentralised local units, is carried out by three separate committees: a ministerial committee, a technical committee and a management committee. This system is reinforced at the traditional level by the appointment, in each village, of a guardian who serves as a sacrificer during rituals. A management plan has been developed for the period 2024-2028, and a curator has been appointed to oversee the management of all the Diy-Gid-Biy ruins, acting as an intermediary between the State, the guides and the guardians/sacrificers. However, representatives from municipal subdivisions are lacking in this management system, which would benefit from being restructured on the basis of an inter-village approach.

Participatory management is crucial, and management methods should be focused on efficiency and the achievement of long-term goals, with the support of sufficient staff.

Conservation and research strategies are crucial to safeguard the attributes of the property and shed light on the people who built it. Tourist access should be carefully studied and planned, in order to preserve the authenticity of the property. Appropriate risk management should be integrated into management strategies and instruments to address natural and anthropogenic threats.

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

   a) Continuing scientific research concerning the context of the establishment and evolution of the Diy-Gid-Biy ruins and the populations that created them,

   b) Implementing measures to conduct agricultural practices in a way that they do not damage the Diy-Gid-Biy ruins,

   c) Implementing measures to control and limit the deterioration of the walls and the use of modern materials,

   d) Continuing ongoing studies and initiatives on mitigation of natural risks and integrating a risk management plan into the management plan,

   e) Adopting an inter-village management approach by integrating representatives from municipal subdivisions in the management system,

   f) Increasing the management and conservation staff and reinforcing their capacity, and securing a budget for conservation,

   g) Implementing a strategy to manage visitor access to the property and facilitating its presentation and interpretation.

C.1.2 Nominations deferred or referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee

Decision: 47 COM 8B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Mount Mulanje Cultural Landscape, Malawi**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape, on the basis of **criteria (iii)** and **(vi);**

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Mount Mulanje Cultural Landscape (MMCL), an outstanding and unique African example of an organically evolving landscape illustrating how the collective attitudes and beliefs of a rural society have interacted with nature for over 100 years, is located in the Mulanje and Phalombe Districts in southern Malawi near Blantyre. The geological setting and ecological systems are critical in demonstrating these interactions, which have created a sacred landscape that demands the users of the Mountain to respect its spirituality and sacredness, and the accompanying traditional management system for its management. It is home to a rich intangible cultural heritage that reflects the beliefs, customs, and way of life of several indigenous ethnic groups or communities, including among them the Mang'anja, the Lhomwe, and the Yao. The landscape contains traces of prehistoric and historical routes or paths, burial grounds, settlement sites, ritual and sacred sites, and ancient caves associated with traditional practices of several

indigenous communities. The landscape thus represents an outstanding example of a traditional management systems that defines religious and cultural beliefs, codes, roles, obligations and behavioural patterns of the community towards the space, its sacredness and the utilisation of its resources. This traditional management system is vested in worldviews of individuals and the community as a whole, making the communities the traditional custodians of the landscape. This system is an exceptional community value-based model of natural and cultural heritage stewardship that has survived over 100 years. The cultural landscape was created and is sustained through living traditions that constitute an exceptional traditional management system based on the values people attach to the sacredness of their natural environment which they protect.

Criterion (iii): Mount Mulanje Cultural Landscape bears a unique and exceptional testimony of an outstanding and unique African example of how the collective attitudes and beliefs of Lhomwe, Mang'anja, Yao and many other ethnic communities illustrate the interplay between intangible aspects, such as belief systems, cultural traditions and spiritual values, and tangible features like rock shelters, water pools and other features of the landscape which reflect in an exceptional way the spiritual association that the local people have to this area and practices associated with the diverse and living communities of the area. The accompanying traditional management systems are firmly anchored in the local cosmologies associated with various indigenous communities associated with this landscape which illustrates three unique and rich aspects of this systems, namely: the diverse local communities' worldview; the uses of sacred places and spirituality; and the role of the traditional systems in the management of the landscape. The mountain serves as a focal point for cultural activities, rituals, and ceremonies, preserving a rich cultural heritage that has endured for centuries.

Criterion (vi): Mount Mulanje is a symbol of a sacred space sustained through the traditional spiritual practices, belief system and set of cultural values shared by the various ethnic groups living around the landscape and these are intricately intertwined with the Mount Mulanje's own attributes of overall impenetrability. There is direct association between the landscape, mountain and sacredness, thereby illustrating the outstanding spiritual power of the landscape in the region, which is invoked by both by local populations and outsiders. The mountain itself is respected beyond the borders of Malawi as a place that gives life and provides healing. The traditions and practices of the Lhomwe, Man'ganja, Yao and many other ethnic groups unify different and diverse ethnic groups further illustrating it as an exceptional cultural testimony at regional level. The traditional healers, herbalists and spirit mediums access and use the power and potency of the mountain, including the sacred trees (Mpoza), for the benefit of the local communities, while the great snake (Napolo), is respected by communities for the same reasons. This outstanding spiritual association between the mountain and the communities is at the heart of interactions in this landscape. The mountain and the beliefs are inseparable making it a repository of the intangible cultural heritage, as well as sustaining it as a sacred abode of ancestors revered by local communities which continues to shape the human-nature interactions through time in this landscape.

Integrity

The integrity of the nominated property is based on the wholeness and intactness of the Mulanje sacred cultural landscape to which spiritual and natural values are attached by the local communities and these are enforced through traditional management systems. The continued existence of the landscape despite intense land use pressures in the twentieth century is proof of the existence and effectiveness of the formal and traditional system of beliefs and norms. The gazetted boundary is large, comprehensive and adequate to ensure complete representation of the all the attributes, traditions and practices, including its supportive ecosystems, sacred places, rivers, mountain, forests and ritual sites remain in existence and are all illustrative of the exceptional and unique values of this sacred and spiritual cultural Landscape. The property is effectively

managed, thereby continuously mitigating internal and external threats to the expression and maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value. This includes longstanding conservation efforts and mitigations which are in place to maintain the integrity of the physical, cultural and natural elements of the landscape. Mitigation include memorandum of agreements with communities on resource utilisation, and institutional arrangements with forestry department and districts. There is shared social and scientific position, including increasing social counter action and inter-governmental dialogue against negative forms of development within the Landscape.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the nominated property is based on the use and function, traditions and traditional management systems, as well as forms of intangible heritage that sustains the human-nature interactions within the evolving cultural landscape. Firstly, the traditions and practices express a strong belief system that sustains the spirit, spirituality and feeling of the place which conveys the Outstanding Universal Value. Second, the Mount Mulanje's highest peak (Sapitwa) is considered sacred by the communities surrounding the mountain where the spirits of their forefathers live, and no one should go there without traditional guidance. This traditional management system is respected all over and helps to protect the traditions and practices of the area, and is further reinforced by formal protocols governing and authenticating traditional herbalists at national level, which is enforced at the local level of the Property. The traditional management system is central to safeguarding its unique spirituality and sacredness, which has been in existence through time and space until these present times. The continued expression of intangible cultural heritage traditions and practices associated with the communities maintain the spirituality and sacredness of the landscape.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected by Traditional Management Systems and national heritage laws providing regulatory policies, guidelines and mechanisms for protecting both culture and natural values of the Forest and Biosphere Reserve. The Mount Mulanje Forest Reserve (MMFR) has been established in 1927. It is governed through the Forestry Act of 1997 (amendment of 2019) and the National Forest Policy of 1996 (under review). This legal framework ensures conservation and sustainable use of forest resources and protects the water catchment function of the Reserve. The Department of Forestry under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change is responsible for the implementation of the legal framework in relation to the natural environment of the nominated property. Recognising customary rights, this legal framework also allows for community-based natural resources management. Supporting legislation includes the Environmental Management Act of 2017, Land Act of 2022 and National Parks and Wildlife Act of 2015. Several associated policies are in place.

In addition, and more importantly, the traditional management system fills the gaps in protection where other statutory mechanisms do not exist to protect the sacred sites within the landscape. There are formal traditional protocols and guidelines governing access and conduct of traditional authorities and practitioners.

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

   a) Continue undertaking community-based inventories of intangible cultural heritage and developing research to track the evolution of the cultural practices that sustain the associative cultural landscape,

   b) Preparing an inventory of sites and natural features to which cultural meanings are attached, and assessing their state of conservation to inform the development of an appropriate conservation programme and management arrangements,

c) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,

d) Developing and implementing Heritage Impact Assessments as well as Social and Environmental Impact Assessments for all planned and ongoing development proposals (such as the visitor reception and information centre, the Lichenya Education Research Centre, and the sports arena),

e) Restricting tourism development within the property and its surroundings to minimal-impact projects and activities,

f) Prohibiting extractive industries from the area of the property and its surroundings,

g) Strengthening protection of the property, especially the measures to sustain the intangible cultural heritage of the Mang'anja, Yao and Lhomwe people, by ensuring institutional support for the preservation of their cultural and spiritual practices that constitute the traditional management system and are required for the sacred landscape of Mount Mulanje to exist, and by developing initiatives supporting the livelihoods and lifeways of local communities in order to maintain their association with the property,

h) Completing integration of the customary and formal legal systems,

i) Preparing and implementing the Integrated Resources Management Plan that would combine the management of natural and cultural aspects of the property,

j) Developing further the monitoring system to encompass all the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value, including the cultural and spiritual practices and beliefs on which the preservation of the cultural values of the property depends, and addressing key threats;

5. Requests the State Party to:

   a) Submit a map showing the buffer zone and explain the arrangements for the buffer zone regulations;

   b) Finalize the declaration process of the property as a national monument,

   c) Submit the administrative framework for the management of the property;

6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

C.2 ARAB STATES

C.2.1 New Nominations

Decision: 47 COM 8B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Faya Palaeolandscape, United Arab Emirates,** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Recognizing the significant contribution of the Faya Palaeolandscape to the shared human narrative of migration and adaptation from Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, and

noting the opportunity to enhance the representativity of the World Heritage List with sites reflecting early human occupation of arid zones,

4. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Faya Palaeolandscape, nationally protected as a single site, encompasses an outstanding example of a Stone Age desert palaeolandscape documenting early modern human occupation of the area from the early Middle Palaeolithic to the Neolithic during varying climatic conditions on the Arabian Peninsula.

The archaeological and palaeoenvironmental findings within the property represent one of the earliest and most continuous stratigraphic records of human occupation of an erratic desert landscape. With the oldest archaeological layer dating back approximately 210,000 years to the early Middle Palaeolithic and the youngest to the Neolithic, about 6,000 years ago, the site illustrates several subsequent stages of human habitation. The property's archived evidence of the evolution of societal structures from hunter-gatherer groups to pastoral nomadic herders with funeral practices allowed for new insights into human adaptation to their inhabited landscapes in extreme climates. The property further represents outstanding conditions for archaeological and palaeoenvironmental research, which contributes to the understanding of human response to the hyper-arid and evolving environment over millennia. Short climatic periods that fluctuated every 20,000 years on average resulted in oscillation of the environment between an arid desert and a pluvial landscape that featured lakes and flowing water along wadi channels. Geomorphological and geohydrological features within the Faya Palaeolandscape document these environmental fluctuations through the availability of underground as well as surface water, which were essential for repeated human occupation. Early modern human groups used the Faya Palaeolandscape and its available geomorphological features for shelter, extraction of raw materials, water collection, hunting and, later, animal husbandry and funerary practices on an intermittent basis. The extraordinary combination of the availability of water sources, raw material as well as shelters established the Faya Palaeolandscape as one of the earliest inhabited desert landscapes. It fills a knowledge gap in the understanding of early human development and adaptation in the desert of the Arabian Peninsula and its habitation even during hyper-arid climatic conditions.

Criterion (iii): The Faya Palaeolandscape bears an exceptional testimony to subsequent stages of intermittent habitation from the early Middle Palaeolithic to the Neolithic on the Arabian Peninsula. This intermittent habitation is a result of the geological, geomorphological and hydrological processes and features which facilitated the nature-culture interaction resulting in the Faya Palaeololandscape. These processes and features resulted in sedimentation of these intermittent habitations dated between 210, 000 and 6,000. The archaeological sites and palaeoenvironmental findings in the property illustrate different layers of intermittent habitation in Arabia during Marine Isotope Stages 6 (hyper arid), 5 (wet), 3 (arid), 2 (hyper arid) and 1 (wet, the present). The archaeological sites and palaeoenvironmental findings are dated to between 210,000 and 6,000 years ago. The rich stratigraphic evidence excavated at the archaeological sites along the Faya Range demonstrates a frequent and periodic occupation of the property. Even though periods of temporary abandonment coincide with periods of harsh climatic conditions, archaeological sites and palaeoenvironmental findings testify that occupation also occurred during hyper-arid conditions. Therefore, the Faya Palaeolandscape illustrates the remarkable skill of early modern humans to adapt to their environment to an extent unparalleled elsewhere. With nine excavated archaeological sites within the area, the property offers an exceptional illustration of occupation and adaptation of early hominin groups during the Palaeolithic and Neolithic to their surrounding on the Arabian Peninsula.

Criterion (iv): The Faya Palaeolandscape is an outstanding example of a Stone Age desert landscape typology with several geological, geomorphological and hydrological processes and features processes and features, which facilitated habitation of early modern humans and are still visible today. The geological, geomorphological and hydrological processes and features include alternations of dry and wet conditions while hydrological processes involve erosion and deposition of sediments and archaeological elements. These processes were largely driven by changes in palaeo-climatic conditions. These geological, geomorphological and hydrological processes and features processes have resulted in wadis, springs, and palaeolakes between the jebels, distribution of freshwater, as well as flora and fauna. Therefore, the Faya Palaeolandscape's notable sedimentological records reflect the evolution of very different palaeoenvironmental and climatic conditions during different Marine Isotope Stages, provide an outstanding location for palaeo-climate research as well as studies on the earliest forms of human adaptation to this environment over time. They provide an understanding of the habitation and adaptation patterns in Arabia from the terminal Middle Pleistocene to the Holocene. Due to its location at the unique interplay of fluvial and aeolian processes, Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer groups and Neolithic herders could exploit the different features of the landscape that enabled their survival under a range of climatic conditions through a favourable interplay of changes in both natural and cultural environments. Key geostrategic locations for palaeolandscape research are documented across the Faya Range, which was affected by global periods of freezing and thawing ice covers through related aridity and humidity as well as by changing effects of the seasonal monsoons. The impacts of water availability are documented by Late Pleistocene and Holocene alluvial fan gravels and wadi terrace deposits distributed across the property. These are still visible today and allow for a profound understanding of the geological, geomorphological and hydrological processes including features as described earlier. Climatic variations documented in the geomorphological and geohydrological features have facilitated not only human occupation over millennia but also archived specific phenomena in Earth's environmental development.

Integrity and authenticity

The nominated property is of adequate size and encompasses all the key features that express the Outstanding Universal Value defined above. All archaeological, geological, geomorphological and hydrological processes and attributes remain in their environmental context and location. They have been well investigated, and their relevance in the global framework of understanding the development of early modern human climatic adaptation patterns in the area is well recognised. Most attributes remain intact and research activities have not disturbed the value stemming from their position in the landscape. Deposits remain in situ for each of the archaeological sites. The direct correlation of the property's archaeological sites and water sources forms a complex mosaic of interrelated cultural and natural attributes that illustrate structural integrity. The contemporary arid landscape no longer involves active surface water flows coming from the western flanks of the Hajar Mountains. However, the Inland Basin allows underground water to channel through the Mleiha-Madam Plain and reach Wadi Yudayyah, which drains water westwards towards the Arabian Gulf. The visual integrity is largely maintained with exception of power lines passing through the northern desert environment of the property. To protect the Faya Palaeolandscape and all its attributes from urban development pressure, new developments are monitored and consistently emphasized in future planning schemes.

The Faya Palaeolandscape is well preserved and has retained its defining desert landscape typology, including the Faya Range that forms a climatic barrier and the pristine sand dunes of the Rub' al-Khāli that illustrates diverse dune types. Apart from smaller developments such as farms, there have been few inevitable changes within the area during the last millennia. However, these do not reduce the high degree of authenticity of the desert landscape features. Ultimately, the ~~visual~~ aesthetic appearance

of the Faya Palaeolandscape and its function as a desert landscape has been preserved. The remarkable character of the environment has not changed significantly since the Meghalayan age of the Holocene in terms of climate and associated distribution of palaeolakes, water springs, wadis, and alluvial fans. The archaeological structures and features of the property are all composed of authentic materials, and still possess artefacts and remains in-situ, which truthfully and credibly express the values conveyed. The location and setting of the archaeological sites are directly dependent on the natural features, reflecting the change from hunter-gatherers to pastoral nomadic herders throughout subsequent stages of habitation in Arabia.

Protection and management requirements

The Faya Palaeolandscape has the highest protection status within the Emirate of Sharjah and, therefore, also in the UAE. With its inclusion on the UNESCO Tentative List, it gained the highest possible protection level under Federal Law No. 4 of 2020. With the official recognition and acceptance of the property boundaries, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, further declared the value and significance of the Faya Palaeolandscape as particularly worthy of protection and safeguarding.

The Sharjah Archaeology Authority is in charge of the strategic and day-to-day management of the Faya Palaeolandscape. The management team is supported also by Shurooq, the Sharjah Investment and Development Authority, and consists of specialists in various fields of expertise, including archaeologists, world heritage experts, architects, ecologists and restoration and conservation experts. This expertise is a valuable asset for the protection and management of the attributes and the Outstanding Universal Value of the Faya Palaeolandscape.

Management procedures have been implemented that sustain the OUV of the proposed property and serve to balance the evolving needs for strategic planning and operation. A management plan has been developed to ensure the safeguarding of the Faya Palaeolandscape long-term. There are legal provisions for Heritage Impact Assessment to inform decisions before any development takes place. The management plan will be effective as of April 2024 for a period of six years until 2030.

5. Requests the State Party to:

   a) Implement and monitor the management plan effectively, ensuring the conservation baseline documentation is completed,

   b) Strengthen enforcement of protective measures, especially for infrastructure and tourism activities that may impact the site;

6. Calls upon the State Party to pursue continued palaeoarchaeological and palaeoclimate research and to foster regional collaboration on early human dispersal;

7. Also calls upon the State Party to initiate the development of a potential serial or transboundary nomination, in consultation with other States Parties/regions, which contextualizes the Outstanding Universal Value of Faya within broader migration and adaptation routes out of Africa;

8. Requests the State Party to invite an Advisory mission to support the work towards the finalization of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value;

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the Committee at its 49th session.

C.3 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

C.3.1 New Nominations

Decision: 47 COM 8B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Murujuga Cultural Landscape, Australia**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape, on the basis of **criteria (i)**, **(iii)** and **(v)**;
3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Murujuga, meaning 'hip bone sticking out', is a landscape of ancient rocks that rises out of the Indian Ocean in northwest Australia. The rocky gullies and hills of Murujuga are shaped by the Lore and the presence of Ngarda-Ngarli, the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this landscape, since Ngurra Nyujunggamu, when the earth was soft, the beginning of time. The Murujuga Cultural Landscape is inscribed for its living cultural values as expressed in the creative artworks, stories and its spirituality for Ngarda-Ngarli. The Outstanding Universal Value of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape lies in the traditional system governing it, which manifests in unified tangible and intangible attributes that attest to at least 50,000 years of Ngarda-Ngarli using and caring for the land and seascape.

The petroglyph assemblage at Murujuga is extensive, diverse, and includes motifs of artistic originality, where innovative techniques convey movement and technical skill employed to achieve textured effects. An extensive structure of beliefs and perspectives that incorporates spiritual knowledge, cultural practices and Creation narratives perpetuates the meaning and significance of the petroglyphs and other tangible attributes that occur within the cultural landscape.

The deliberate placement of motifs at significant sites within the landscape has great aesthetic impact. The Murujuga assemblage is the most vast and densest known concentrations of petroglyphs in the world. The petroglyphs incorporate visual representations of cultural practices and record history through times of significant climatic and environmental change.

The cultural landscape includes evidence of occupation which, in combination with the petroglyphs, stone structures and living cultural practices, demonstrate, adaptive human use of land and sea. The continuity of rich cultural connections is evident in the people, beliefs, and Murujuga Cultural Landscape since deep time.

These attributes are intrinsically holistic and it is only through their unified consideration that the full narrative of the cultural landscape is understood. This is a living cultural landscape, under the care and cultural governance of Ngarda-Ngarli, that is testament to cultural traditions, creativity, spirituality and ecological knowledge spanning tens of thousands of years.

Criterion (i): The petroglyphs of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape demonstrate artistic achievement assembled over 50,000 years. The creative genius of Ngarda-Ngarli ancestors is evidenced in artistic quality, placement within the landscape, and the overwhelming visual quality of the entire ensemble of 1-2 million petroglyphs.

The artistic quality is remarkable. There is diversity in artistic expression, including use of naturalism and abstraction. While some anthropomorphic figures are arranged in complex scenes, others are engraved in distinctive styles as individual motifs. There are

abstract static figures; unusual profile figures; as well as standing, running, and squatting figures, some with sinuous limbs, where artists have used profile and perspective to create a sense of movement. Many zoomorphic petroglyphs demonstrate detailed naturalism revealing morphological knowledge of locally and nationally extinct marsupials. Animal footprints denote spiritual paths through the landscape, and the corpus also includes geometric and abstract designs. The collection of rare and intricate archaic faces, thought to be some of the oldest Murujuga petroglyphs, are amongst the earliest anthropomorphic images on earth. These motifs were produced using complex decorative infill and would have required exceptionally skilled engraving techniques.

The petroglyphs are visually outstanding, demonstrate technical skill, and represent multiple phases in the development of regional and local styles. The petroglyphs exist in deliberate spatial relations, established by deep cultural connections between people and landscape, imbued with meaning and associated with spiritual knowledge and practices. Their placement and content convey an encyclopaedia of cultural knowledge. The Murujuga petroglyphs are a manifestation of creative genius, inscribed in the landscape since deep time.

Criterion (iii): The Murujuga Cultural Landscape bears testimony to the living cultural traditions of Ngarda-Ngarli and the spiritual relationship between people and landscape that is at least 50,000 years old. Ngarda-Ngarli knowledge, Lore, Law, and culture are expressed through the landscape and in the petroglyph assemblage.

The petroglyphs of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape have a central role in the continuing culture of Ngarda-Ngarli through storytelling that connects Country with creation stories. New generations learn cultural traditions through the observance of Law, artistic practices like song and dance, as well as the performance of particular actions at places of spiritual power within the landscape. Ngarda-Ngarli fulfill cultural obligations to look after the Murujuga Cultural Landscape. Ngarda-Ngarli know there are possible harmful effects if cultural obligations are neglected.

The petroglyphs, stone structures and Ngarda-Ngarli's cultural beliefs all provide testimony to a living cultural tradition. Petroglyphs are a permanent reminder that Traditional Lore is inscribed into the landscape. Stone structures and archaeological sites are a permanent inscription within the landscape of the practice of Law, the social division of space and adaptive strategies of stewardship within a dynamic environment. The creation narratives, jinna ('songlines'), spiritual places, and thalu (increase sites) are fundamental to Ngarda-Ngarli understanding and management of nature. The natural attributes are a reminder of continuing traditional management of the land and seascape over thousands of generations. The stories, the resources and spirit of the land are alive and as important to Ngarda-Ngarli today as they have been for at least 50,000 years.

Criterion (v): The Murujuga Cultural Landscape exemplifies the combined works of nature and humankind. The relationship between Ngarda-Ngarli and the landscape is evident in the petroglyphs, archaeological record and, importantly, contemporary knowledge and culture. Material evidence and Ngarda-Ngarli living culture attest to continued use of the landscape over millennia, including periods of significant environmental and climatic change. The inextricable integration of cultural and natural attributes embody the enduring relationship between people and nature, offering a unique example of human adaptation to ecological and cultural transition and environmental and cultural stewardship. The long history of adaptation to change illustrates a balanced, symbiotic relationship with nature, demonstrating the deep and sustainable connection of Ngarda-Ngarli to Country and exemplifying the traditional system perpetuated by Ngarda-Ngarli which governs the landscape as a whole.

The landscape reveals a creation narrative of climatic change, culminating in rapid sea level rises that shifted the coastline approximately 160 kilometres, so the arid rocky

ranges became an archipelago. The petroglyphs of Murujuga provide a detailed record of the ecological transition, illustrating traditional ecological knowledge.

Ngarda-Ngarli witnessed and adapted to change, modifying rituals and the landscape, including middens, quarries, standing stones and fish traps. The landscape includes Australia's earliest known domestic stone structures, as well as submerged occupation sites. Ngarda Ngarli continue to sing jinna connecting the land and seascape.

The Murujuga Cultural Landscape is an outstanding example of human interaction with the environment over at least 50,000 years. The landscape is patterned by this long-term presence persisting through irreversible environmental and climatic changes. The cultural landscape includes petroglyphs, stone structures and living cultural practices, which evidence adaptive utilisation of land and sea and continuous Ngarda-Ngarli custodianship of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape since deep time, through present time and for Ngarda-Ngarli into the future.

Integrity

The Murujuga Cultural Landscape is an intact and demonstrative example of human creativity, spiritual associations and continuous human interaction with a dynamic land and seascape. The integrity is sustained through Ngarda-Ngarli cultural practices and active management.

All attributes that convey Outstanding Universal Value are within the boundary of the property and in a good state of conservation. Tangible attributes are whole and intact, and intangible cultural associations remain strong. Based on surveys, assessment and consultation, the boundary has been designated to exclude deteriorated lands and the property conveys all the values of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape.

The attributes of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape include a vast petroglyph corpus; stone structures; archaeological sites; sites of spiritual and cultural significance; as well as sites demonstrating a continuation of land and sea use spanning millennia. Significant features are in good condition and impacts of deterioration processes are controlled through monitoring and management. Relationships are maintained through continuing traditional custodianship of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape. The resilience and persistence of Ngarda-Ngarli in advocating for heritage protections and ensuring continuity of traditional practices, despite colonisation, mean that the intangible heritage values of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape are intact and continuing.

Authenticity

The Outstanding Universal Value of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape is truthfully and credibly expressed in petroglyphs, stone structures, and living cultural practices of Ngarda-Ngarli. The authenticity of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape is deeply intwined with tangible and intangible elements that reflect the traditions, beliefs, perspectives and cultural practices of Ngarda-Ngarli. Authenticity here encompasses truth in the design and substance of the petroglyphs and the credibility of the cultural traditions.

The authenticity reflects Ngarda-Ngarli cultural understandings and ontologies, extending back through all recorded time. The connection between people and landscape is inscribed into the landforms, as artworks carved and etched into the rocks and stone structures created for a range of traditional uses. The Murujuga Cultural Landscape has evolved over at least 50,000 years of human occupation, and the attributes convey an authentic sense of place reflecting the continuing and dynamic presence of Ngarda-Ngarli.

Creative genius is credibly and truthfully expressed in the petroglyphs, demonstrating originality in technique, form and design. Continuing cultural traditions coherently accord with knowledge conveyed by the petroglyphs. Motifs relate to traditional community identity, relationships, and responsibilities. Lore and Law define knowledge and responsibility through prescribed rules that govern economic, cultural, social and

ceremonial interactions. Ngarda-Ngarli work to ensure intergenerational transmission of language, traditional knowledge and continuity in protecting and caring for the Murujuga Cultural Landscape.

Protection and management requirements

Protection of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape is a cultural obligation of Ngarda-Ngarli. Ngarda Ngarli protocols for protecting the landscape through customary governance are practiced alongside contemporary management techniques. The joint managers of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape are the Murujuga Land and Sea Unit, managed by Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, and the Western Australian Government.

The Outstanding Universal Value is protected through the care, control and management of Ngarda-Ngarli, who are supported by a comprehensive legislative framework. Ngarda-Ngarli have obligations and authority under both traditional 'Lore' and Australian 'law'. Traditional knowledge guides management and Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation's consent is sought prior to development within and outside of the property. Protection and management of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape includes working with managers of adjacent lands to monitor and manage impacts of existing development. The Murujuga Rock Art Strategy establishes the long-term framework to protect Murujuga's petroglyphs from the impacts of industrial emissions.

The World Heritage values of the property are recognised as a 'Matter of National Environmental Significance' under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. A majority of the land area of the property is also protected through Australia's National Heritage List. Cultural heritage within the Murujuga Cultural Landscape is further protected by the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984 and the Western Australian Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

4. Congratulates the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation on the preparation of an exemplary nomination dossier, which is a best practice example of an Indigenous-led nomination process that centres Indigenous cultural governance and community decision making at the heart of the World Heritage nomination process, and acknowledges the 50,000 years of land and sea management by Ngarda-Ngarli and their dedication to the protection and management of this cultural landscape for future generations;

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

   a) Continue the ongoing research studies and ongoing monitoring on the impact of the industries on the petroglyphs and on the property,

   b) Ensure the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Programme research outcomes, and the regulatory framework, protect the petroglyphs of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape from the impacts of emissions,

   c) Continue to undertake Heritage Impact Assessment processes for any further industrial development adjacent to, and within, the Murujuga Cultural Landscape, and incorporate any remaining undeveloped Strategic Industrial Areas into the protected area estate,

   d) In consultation with Ngarda-Ngarli, ensure compliance with decommissioning and rehabilitation plans for industrial activities, as required,

   e) In partnership with Ngarda-Ngarli and using free, prior and informed consent implement strengthened protection measures through the Murujuga Cultural Landscape Strategic Management Framework,

   f) Establish the Murujuga Cultural Landscape World Heritage Advisory Committee, incorporating local, cultural and scientific expertise to further strengthen governance and safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,

g) Ensure compliance with all reporting requirements under the Operational Guidelines;

6. Encourages the State Party to give consideration to the following:

   a) Undertaking measures to ensure that interlinked cultural and natural values are fully protected, both in the terrestrial and the marine areas,

   b) Undertaking measures to ensure that both cultural and natural values, and the impacts from the port and industries on the marine and terrestrial cultural artefacts and biodiversity are regularly monitored,

   c) Continuing the research and studies underway on the underwater feature of the property,

   d) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,

   e) Continuing to implement the existing Heritage Impact Assessment process for development proposals,

   f) Continue involving Ngarda-Ngarli in the drafting of the final Statement of Outstanding Universal Value;

7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, a progress report and, by **1 December 2027**, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 50th session.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Cambodian Memorial Sites: From centres of repression to places of peace and reflection, Cambodia**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (vi)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   The Cambodian Memorial Sites are testimony to one of the most serious abuses of human rights in the 20th century. Between 1971 and 1979, the Khmer Rouge regime established a nation-wide security system in order to repress political opponents and impose a classless agrarian society of collective farming. The network of security centres and execution sites throughout Cambodia touched every aspect of Cambodian life through imprisonment, forced transfers and labour, and denial of the necessities of life. In a single decade, one quarter of the population perished.

   This serial property of three component parts illustrates the stages of the Khmer Rouge security system. The former M-13 prison (component part A) shows the initial phase during the civil war period, a prototype for subsequent developments. The centrally located former S-21 prison, now Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, (component part B) in Phnom Penh represents the apex of the system; and its associated execution site, now Choeung Ek Genocidal Center (component part C) reveals its final elimination stage. These three sites represent the full scope of the repressive system of imprisonment, interrogation, torture and execution.

Following the defeat of the Khmer Rouge regime, the Cambodian Memorial Sites became places of memorialisation to honour victims. As places of reflection and learning, the serial property encourages peaceful coexistence among peoples and fosters a commitment to never repeat such atrocities. The property provides an example of the ongoing process of navigating the joint goals of justice and national reconciliation.

Criterion (vi): The Cambodian Memorial Sites demonstrate the events of the Khmer Rouge repressive system of imprisonment, interrogation, torture and execution known internationally as the "killing fields". The scale and impact of these events and the impacts on the people of Cambodia are of outstanding universal significance. The three component parts were all managed directly by one man (Kaing Guek Eav, known as Duch) accountable to the senior leadership of the Khmer Rouge. All have direct tangible and intangible links with these events through their tangible attributes, documentary evidence and witness accounts.

Integrity

The serial property includes all the attributes necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value, and to support the continuing processes of memorialisation. The boundaries of the component parts are satisfactory but are tightly drawn, possibly requiring future revision in light of new discoveries. The component parts have a satisfactory state of conservation, although they are vulnerable due to natural processes, visitor pressures, and urban development.

Authenticity

The serial property is associated with tangible evidence, written and oral information sources that provide insight into the Khmer Rouge security system. The above and below ground attributes of the component parts, together with the associated collections and archives demonstrate the authenticity of the serial property in relation to its Outstanding Universal Value. These information sources are relatively more abundant for the former S-21 prison and execution grounds (component parts B and C) than for the former M-13 prison (component part A). The material evidence of the physical attributes has been well documented using maps, photographs, archaeological investigations, exhumation of human remains and witness accounts. The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives, included in the UNESCO Memory of World International Register, are a rich resource for understanding these events and their tragic outcomes. In addition, the judicial records of the international Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) support the authenticity of these sites.

Protection and management requirements

The three component parts are all owned by the Royal Government of Cambodia: two by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts (A and B) and one by the Phnom Penh Municipality (C). The Phnom Penh Municipality has given a contract to the JC Royal Company to provide the daily operations of the Choeung Ek Genocidal Center (C) as a tourism destination (until 2035).

The property is protected under several Royal Decrees, laws and regulations. Protection is operationalised by the relevant municipal/provincial master plans which require urgent development and finalisation.

A coordinated management mechanism for the property has been established by Royal Decree via an Inter-Ministerial Committee responsible for implementing the protection and management strategies across the three component parts. The Director of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum is the overall Coordinating Officer, mandated to oversee the management, conservation, interpretation and other matters related to the property.

The Comprehensive Cultural Management Plan covers conservation of all attributes, visitor and property management, interpretation, protection and appropriate treatment of human remains for each component part. It also addresses the site-specific conservation

requirements and regulation of their respective buffer zones. Many of the key actions will be facilitated by the grant from the Korea International Cooperation Agency and UNESCO (KOICA/UNESCO) for the period 2024-2028.

The three component parts have different levels and types of visitation. Two of them (B and C) are heavily visited destinations for tourism and are significant sites of memory visited by Cambodian people. Currently component part A is not accessible for visitors and memorial activities have recently begun. Careful strategic planning for this component part is required, accompanied by rigorous Heritage Impact Assessments. A masterplan for this site will be prepared.

There are few survivors of the Khmer Rouge regime still alive, but the families of victims are involved in the commemoration and educational activities of each of the component parts. The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum has an extensive educational outreach programme for Cambodian students. There are further opportunities for community involvement in the management system.

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

   a) Establishing the practical operations of the planned coordinated management mechanism for the property as a priority, and considering the establishment of a coordinating office or other structure managed by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts,

   b) Developing and finalising as a priority the Master Plan for the Kampong Chhnang Province that ensures the regulation and protection of the buffer zone for component part A, and the Master Plans on Land Use Designation for component parts B and C,

   c) Developing an overarching interpretation plan for the property that brings together the overall story presented by the component parts (initially at least, this should be presented at component parts B and C),

   d) Completing the planned overarching Heritage Impact Assessment policy document for the property and considering the most effective means of embedding this mechanism in the legal framework; also ensuring that rigorous Heritage Impact Assessments are applied to all new developments in all three component parts,

   e) Developing an overarching research plan for the property,

   f) Developing a sustainable tourism plan for the property, including the integrated visitor itineraries that encompass all the component parts, along with a code of conduct for respectful visitation,

   g) Expand the opportunities for the involvement of local communities living and working around each of the component parts in the management of the property,

   h) Ensuring that sand dredging is prohibited in the wider setting of component part A, and implementing flood control measures to prevent damage to the attributes,

   i) Undertaking non-invasive research to determine the location of mass grave(s) at component parts A and B, and developing policies for how any future discoveries will be handled; revision of boundaries and/or buffer zones through a minor boundary modification request should be considered if discoveries outside the current delineations of the property occur,

   j) Developing a comprehensive maintenance plan for component part B,

   k) Strengthening the protection of future discoveries of sub-surface archaeological sites and materials (including graves and human remains) by linking them to the development approval regulations for the buffer zone and wider setting of component part B,

l) Developing and implementing capacity and the needed ongoing resources to improve the standards of material conservation and storage of artefacts, documents and objects held by the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, including human remains,

m) Developing master plans for component parts A and C; and including in the master plan for component part A, a clear vision for its interpretation that takes into account its rural location and fragile tangible remains.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Xixia Imperial Tombs, China**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Xixia Imperial Tombs are a necropolis of the Xixia Dynasty, located in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region of north-west China, in the foothills of the Helan Mountains, and formed from the 11th to 13th centuries. Comprising nine imperial mausoleums, 271 subordinate tombs, a northern architectural complex and thirty-two flood control works, this necropolis is a unique testimony to the Xixia Dynasty and its imperial lineage, which lasted nearly 200 years and was established by the Tanguts, nomadic herdspeople who settled in a region crossed by the Silk Road, and brought together a diverse population composed, in addition to the Tanguts, of Han, Tubo, Uighur, Khitan and Jurchen peoples.

Through contact with merchants, caravans, monks and nomads, the Tanguts developed a civilisation based on the Chinese imperial model, of which Buddhism was an essential part. This is evidenced by very large, diverse architectural sites, as well as a wealth of objects excavated at the property, including fragments of stelae in Tangut script.

Criterion (ii): The Xixia Imperial Tombs bear witness to cultural and religious influences from multiple sources, ranging from the traditions of the Song and Tang dynasties to the beliefs and funerary customs of the Tanguts, where adherence to Buddhism dominated and ancestral traditions persisted. These characteristics are fully reflected in the spatial organisation, design and architecture of the Xixia funerary complex.

Criterion (iii): The Xixia Imperial Tombs illustrate the spiritual and cultural originality of the Xixia Dynasty and the Tangut people. This civilisation developed for nearly 200 years in contact with the Silk Road through cultural and commercial exchange in north-west China, from the 11th to the 13th century.

Integrity

The property contains the only imperial tombs identified in the territory of the Tanguts that are associated with a set of subordinate tombs and supplementary constructions and works, allowing for a complete representation of the property and its architectural features in its historical setting. The remains forming the necropolis are in a generally good state of conservation, and the main factors affecting the property are the effects of climate change, tourism and urban growth. The boundaries are adequate, and the buffer zone provides an additional layer of protection.

Authenticity

The property is located in an unspoiled natural desert setting. Its visual and spiritual connection to the Helan Mountains is also preserved. Each tomb, whether a mausoleum or a subordinate tomb, the flood control works and the architectural complex are

preserved in place in their original location and have retained enough materials to remain coherent.

Protection and management requirements

The property has been a National Priority Protected Site since 1988. Its perimeter was declared a conservation area by the regional authorities in 1991. All interventions on the property are governed by the national regime for the protection of cultural relics. A series of laws and regulations complete and strengthen this system.

Four competent administrative authorities are responsible for managing the property: the central government, the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the Yinchuan Municipality and the Yinchuan Xixia Imperial Tombs Management Office, to which is attached the Xixia Imperial Tombs Cultural Tourism Development Co. Ltd. These authorities are tasked with ensuring, each at its own level, compliance with the legislative and regulatory framework for the conservation and management of the property.

To this end, these authorities have adopted the Conservation Plan of Xixia Imperial Tombs (2019-2035), approved and published by the People's Government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in January 2024. This plan builds on and supplements previous planning arrangements, and provides for a conservation area plan with management rules.

The Conservation and Management Plan of Xixia Imperial Tombs (2023-2035) assesses the state of conservation of the property and provides for enhanced measures as well as the implementation of actions for protection, management, use and research. It also defines a strategy for the coordinated development of heritage protection and its economic and social aspects at the local level. Finally, it provides for a set of measures to take into account natural risks as well as urban or tourism-related pressures.

In addition to these specialised conservation plans, the Territorial Spatial Master Plan of Yinchuan Municipality (2021-2035) integrates the conservation of the Xixia Imperial Tombs within the ecological protection of Helan. It also takes into account the protection of the mountains and the cultural heritage.

These provisions provide legal, institutional, and management guarantees for the protection of the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property.

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

   a) Extending conservation works to all the subordinate tombs and remaining structures on the property,

   b) Strengthening the ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the archaeological remains, particularly through preventative monitoring, the development of consolidation measures and the preparation of a comprehensive conservation plan for the subordinate tombs,

   c) Continuing the measures to control the effects of the operation of the air force base and ensuring that air traffic does not increase in order to avoid any negative impacts on the property caused by vibrations,

   d) Continuing research programmes related to climate change and its effect on the archaeological remains, including the subordinate tombs and structures,

   e) Publishing research reports and the results of archaeological excavations on a regular basis,

   f) Providing the human and material resources required to ensure the management of the property,

   g) Regularly assessing the implementation of the measures of the Specialized Plan for Cultural Tourism of Xixia Imperial Tombs,

h) Considering the involvement of residents in decision-making mechanisms.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B, WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1 and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B4,

2. Inscribes **Maratha Military Landscapes of India, India**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iv)** and **(vi)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Maratha Military Defence System of India, is a serial nomination, consisting of 12 components, which are an unparalleled representation of the Maratha Kingdom's envisaged military network in India. Conceived by the Maratha rulers between the 17th and 19th centuries CE, this defence system located in the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu represents an extraordinary network of forts. These forts vary in hierarchies, scales, and typological features, and integrate the landscape, terrain, and physiographic characteristics into an innovatively unified operational defence system. The Maratha military ideology reached its zenith during the reign of the Maratha king, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, by 1670 CE, and continued through subsequent reigns until the Maratha rule ended in 1818 CE.

This serial nomination, of 12 anchor forts within the military network holistically symbolise the manifestation of power and geopolitical dominance through strategic vision, geographical diversity, nuanced understanding of the terrain, innovative military design, defence planning, social inclusiveness, and the deployment of military tactics devised under the Maratha regime. These components are the best surviving examples of the Maratha Military Defence System.

This defence system distinctive to the Sahyadri mountain ranges, the Konkan coast, the Deccan Plateau, and the Eastern Ghats in the Indian peninsula represent the largest concentration of forts integrated within diverse landscapes. Collectively, they narrate a compelling military saga, showcasing the relationship between the expanding Maratha Kingdom and the simultaneous development of Maratha community ideologies, culture, and social structure during an important phase in the history of the Indian subcontinent. They have retained their strategic and cultural relevance over time, with a living legacy that continues to be honoured and celebrated by local communities even today.

Criterion (iv): The serial nomination of the Maratha Military Defence System of India demonstrates the successful application of military architecture dovetailed with planning, design, technological development, and military and governance strategies. Each component's particular characteristics contribute to defining the great typological variety inherent in design and planning due to the varying geography and physiography. Together, these serial components present the narrative of the expansion and rise of the Maratha Rule.

Criterion (vi): The 12 fort components are tangible expressions of enduring ideas of self-rule (Swarajya) and cultural resilience associated with the Marathas. These forts are central to intergenerational identity transmission - where communities actively engage to commemorate courage, sacrifice, and leadership models of the Maratha period. Forged in a specific historical context and based on welfare of the people at large, subsequently the ideology of Swarajya profoundly shaped the evolution of Indian political consciousness. It became a guiding principle for anti-colonial movements in the 19th and 20th centuries, including the Indian freedom struggle. The values of resilience, vigilance,

and ethical resistance embedded in these sites have global resonance in a world that continues to reckon with colonial pasts and the pursuit of sovereign dignity.

Integrity

The 12 fort components of the serial nomination are exceptional examples of the complex system of military and defence planning and mechanism developed and manifested by the Marathas between 1600s to the early 1800s. Collectively, the 12 components represent the complete extent of the Maratha Defence System within the Maratha territory ('Swarajya') that was developed as a network across three axes along the Sahyadri mountains, the Konkan coast and, across the Deccan peninsula.

The selected 12 components include all essential natural and man-made defence attributes that fully demonstrate the execution of the key Maratha military operations within this defence system. The boundary of each individual component ensures the inclusion of all essential attributes of Maratha fort planning with its natural terrain, military design and innovations alongside demonstrating their interlinkages and operationality and their contribution to the development of Maratha ideology and culture.

The buffer zone of each of the 12 components ensures that surrounding setting of the Primary Forts with their essential attributes is protected with the buffer of the secondary and tertiary forts that were monitored and governed under each component.

Authenticity

The selected 12 components are protected under the Central or State government notifications. The protected status grants the fort importance at the national and state level. Besides this, the conservation and management frameworks follow National Conservation Policy and State-level regulations to carry out conservation, management, monitoring, and site development works as per the site management plans. In the conservation works carried out in these forts, utmost care is taken to use similar materials and techniques and preserve the authenticity of materials and techniques.

The archaeological and architectural material remains of these forts spanning across the west coast of Maharashtra, the Konkan coast, and the Eastern Ghats are largely authentic and retain their original location, design, technology of construction, motifs, and details and materials of the respective historic period. In terms of spirit and feeling, each of the 12 components are icons of Maratha valour and traditions celebrated by the Maratha community across India, the government of Maharashtra and India on these forts at various times.

These 12 components constitute the most authentic, best conserved, and most representative sites of the Maratha Military Defence System of India. The Secondary and tertiary forts are in Buffer zones.

Management and protection requirements

All 12 components of the Maratha Military System of India are jointly managed by Central and State authorities under established legal frameworks. Eight components (Shivneri Fort, Lohagad, Raigad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg and Gingee Fort) are protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under national laws like Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958 and the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act (AAT), 1972, with conservation overseen by the ASI, guided by the National Conservation Policy, 2014. The remaining four (Salher Fort, Rajgad, Khanderi Fort, Pratapgad) are protected under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960 and managed by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums.

Overall management is overseen by the State Level Apex Advisory Committee, chaired by Maharashtra's Chief Secretary, including key department heads, ASI officials, district collectors, heritage NGOs, and specialists. The Apex Advisory Committee also has the

authority to co-opt any additional department representative/expert member as per specific requirement if needed. The Committee meets quarterly to coordinate management, research, conservation, and interpretation across all components. It can co-opt additional experts as needed.

This Apex Level Advisory Committee is further supported by a District Level committee for each component, chaired by the District collector, with representations of the Superintending Archaeologist of ASI/ Deputy Director/Assistant Director of the Directorate of State Archaeology and other local experts/NGOs. Action Plans for each component are outlined as per the overarching management framework and adopted policies that reference the Outstanding Universal Value with indicators for management quality assurance during the implementation processes.

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

   a) Protecting the secondary and tertiary forts in the buffer zones of the component parts with cultural-heritage-specific designations,

   b) Integrating the proposed implementation calendars for remedial or mitigation measures into the respective management plans of forts affected by adverse impacts of past inappropriate developments,

   c) Preparing a Heritage Impact Assessment on any ongoing or future projects in the surroundings of the twelve component parts that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the forts and their relationship with their historic setting,

   d) Continuing with the documentation activity through its systematisation and integration into interoperable GIS for research, conservation and risk management purposes,

   e) Undertaking regular upkeep and maintenance of the fort structures to delay the need for extensive and complex conservation interventions and ensure recent interventions last longer,

   f) Strengthening the management of the buffer zones and more explicitly incorporating existing or planned management mechanisms and measures into the management plans,

   g) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake all major projects that may impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,

   h) Considering the possibility of a second phase strategy for extension of boundaries of the twelve component parts so as to also include secondary and tertiary forts currently in the buffer zone;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Prehistoric Caves and Falak-ol-Aflak Ensemble of Khorramabad Valley (PCFEKV), Islamic Republic of Iran**, with the exception of component parts Falak-ol-Aflak Ensemble (7) and Shekaste Bridge (Shapouri Bridge) (8), on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Prehistoric Sites of the Khorramabad Valley comprise five prehistoric caves and one rock shelter with evidence of human occupation dating back to 63,000 BP. These are the Kaldar, Ghamari, Gilvaran, Yafteh and Kunji caves, as well as the Gar Arjeneh Rock Shelter (component parts 1 to 6). The Khorramabad Valley is located in the Central Zagros Mountain Range, one of the key routes of human dispersal out of Africa. The numerous caves and rock shelters, ample water resources, rich fauna and flora, suitable stone sources for the tool industry, and relatively mild climate have created favourable conditions for human settlement since the Middle Palaeolithic period.

Archaeological excavations and study of the artefacts excavated on the sites have established the scientific chronology of human development in the valley. The Mousterian layers in Kunji Cave testify to the domination of the Neanderthals in the valley during the Middle Palaeolithic. During the transition between the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic periods, anatomically modern humans arrived in the valley, expanded their settlements and eventually supplanted the Neanderthals, illustrating the earliest transition phase in the Zagros region, which shed light on the debate over human migration routes out of Africa into Eurasia. The pendants and other decorative objects discovered at the sites, the evidence of using ochre pigments, as well as a decorated piece of terracotta mark the emergence of human cognitive behaviour and belief systems. The shell pendants were possibly sourced from the Persian Gulf, indicating the existence of communication and exchange routes between the Khorramabad Valley and the lowlands of the Persian Gulf during the Upper Palaeolithic period. Large numbers and varieties of stone tools discovered at the sites bear witness to the sophisticated stone tool technologies of the Baradostian culture that surpassed contemporaneous developments in the Zagros Mountains.

Criterion (iii): The Prehistoric Sites of the Khorramabad Valley, with the shell pendants sourced from the distant Persian Gulf and ornaments fashioned from deer canine teeth, are an outstanding manifestation of the emergence and evolution of symbolic communication, a crucial aspect of modern human cognitive development. This evidence, alongside sophisticated stone tool technologies, is an exceptional testimony to the Upper Palaeolithic Baradostian culture on a global scale. The caves and shelters bear witness to the domination of the Neanderthals, to the arrival and expansion of the anatomically modern humans who eventually supplanted the Neanderthals in the valley, and provide insight into the migratory route of human dispersal out of Africa.

Integrity

The prehistoric sites collectively illustrate the multifaceted life of the prehistoric communities and their evolution, and, individually, each of the six component parts contributes to the overall Outstanding Universal Value in a substantial, scientific, readily defined and discernible way. Each component part has been well preserved with affecting factors under control, and the buffer zones provide an additional layer of protection. Despite the development of human settlements in the Khorramabad Valley and the gradual urbanisation of the area, the component parts have maintained their spatial relationships with their relatively undisturbed surrounding environment.

Authenticity

The prehistoric sites are authentic in their location, natural forms, and settings. Natural vegetation, seasonal and permanent rivers, water springs and historical paths have been maintained in these spaces. The archaeological resources are largely undisturbed, constituting a vast authentic knowledge reservoir for future research.

Protection and management requirements

All the component parts have been included on the National Monuments List, conforming to the legislation in force, and are governed, together with their buffer zones, by specific regulations inherent to their protected heritage status. The Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts (IMCHTH) is responsible for their research, conservation, monitoring, and management. These activities are implemented through the Research Base, which is a decentralised multi-disciplinary centre reporting to the IMCHTH and the management entity of the property. The management plan sets out management objectives and an action plan with short-, medium- and long-term conservation measures to preserve the values and maintain the integrity and authenticity of the property. The legal and management systems in place ensure the long-term preservation of the property and its immediate and wider setting, which is important to sustain and understand the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

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

   a) Adjusting the current management system and the management plan, the monitoring system, and the interpretation strategy to focus on the reduced serial property,

   b) Considering constructing a shelter to protect the sondage pit in front of the Gilvaran Cave (component part 3),

   c) Establishing a research programme, in collaboration with international institutions as appropriate, and continuing regular scientific research on the prehistoric sites of the Khorramabad Valley to enhance data collection and management,

   d) Integrating Heritage Impact Assessment mechanisms, as prescribed in the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, in the decision-making process,

   e) Strengthening the involvement of local communities in the decision-making process of the property management;

5. Decides that the name of the serial property be changed to "**Prehistoric Sites of the Khorramabad Valley**".

Decision: 47 COM 8B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor, Malaysia**, on the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape, on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor is an outstanding example of one of the earliest large-scale re-creation of a tropical rain forest on severely devastated land, through scientific effort at the turn of the 20th century, marking a significant reforestation and conservation stage in human history, at a time when deforestation was the norm.

   This biodiverse tropical rain forest restoration effort in the early 20th century began at a time when deforestation was a global phenomenon. This shift from deforestation to restoration marked an important stage in the history of forest science, a precursor to global awareness of planetary health.

Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor, a forested landscape of a Mature Tropical Rain Forest, with its multi-storied forest structure and a maximal biodiversity composition, includes arboreta, recreational garden, experimental plots and an infrastructure of roads, avenues and buildings as entities within the forested landscape.

Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor is of adequate size to sustain its Outstanding Universal Value and a hundred years into its existence, the stability of its structure, ecology and biodiversity composition has not deviated from the form and design of a natural tropical rain forest, thus supporting its Integrity. Its Authenticity has not been compromised and demonstrates the stability of the nominated property. The characteristic form and design of FRIM FPS forested landscape that was successfully created on devastated land, has remained intact until today and is fully owned and protected by the government through several legal instruments.

In comparison to other tropical reforested landscape sites, FRIM FPS is the most outstanding because it was the earliest large-scale restoration effort on the most severely devastated land with almost zero soil fertility. FRIM FPS is also outstanding because it has achieved maximal biodiversity.

Criterion (iv): FRIM FPS forested landscape was a result of human effort in creating a human-made forest with a maximal biodiversity equivalent to a natural tropical rain forest, at a time when deforestation dominated in global forestry. This illustrates an important stage in forest science reflecting a change from exploitation of forest to total rehabilitation; from total deforestation to total restoration of a natural tropical rain forest. This effort marks an important scientific stage in forestry where FRIM FPS represents the first successful tropical large-scale scientific transformation from a severe deforestation stage to a mature biodiversity rich natural forest restoration stage in 100 years.

Integrity

The form, structure and biodiversity of a tropical rainforest was achieved in 1980s and have been sustained since then, demonstrating stability of the nominated property in terms of its size, structure, biological composition and resistance to invasive species and any other disturbances. Its ecological stability indicates that its integrity and attributes have not been compromised. The nominated property not only contains representatives of the total biodiversity of Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve, but above and beyond that it has plants representative of the whole of lowland forest of Malaysia. After 100 years, the diversity of flora and fauna is equivalent to the natural tropical rain forests of Malaysia, and richer than Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve, because many additional species from other parts of Malaysia and Southeast Asia were introduced at the planting stage.

Authenticity

The characteristic form and design of FRIM FPS is that of a forested landscape that was successfully created on devastated land and has remained intact until today. FRIM FPS's mission to create a human-made forest has continued from its beginning, a 100 years ago, without interruption and has now reached the level of maturity of a natural tropical rain forest, an extremely rare site.

FRIM's core business of forest research has continued and it is currently the body that is monitoring forest health in the nominated property. As a result of its scientific mission, FRIM has a full complement of scientists and engineers available to conserve and support Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor, and a very long list of scientific publications, important for tropical rainforest.

Protection and management requirements

Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor, the nominated property is wholly owned and managed by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), a

government agency in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES). FRIM has a Board of Directors established under the FRIM Act 2016 (Act 782) to provide strategic direction and oversight for the organisation. This Act encompasses research, monitoring, conservation and protection of Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor.

In 2015, Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor was declared a National Heritage Site giving it further protection under the National Heritage Act 2005 (Act 645), which sets out the framework for protecting and conserving national heritage. In addition to the National Heritage Act, other relevant legal instruments for protection and management besides the 2016 Forest Research Institute Malaysia Act (Act 782), include the 2010 Wildlife Conservation Act (Act 716), the 2008 International Trade in Endangered Species Act (Act 686), and the 1976 Town and Country Planning Act (Act 172).

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

   a) Developing additional protection measures that ensure effective protection of the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value from development in the southern part of the buffer zone,

   b) Strengthening the protection and management system in order to guarantee that it is effective for the long-term protection of the property,

   c) Integrating a conservation architect into the staff for the monitoring and maintenance programmes of historical buildings,

   d) Considering reducing the extension of Zone 3 – controlled development area – as it appears comparatively large vis-à-vis the whole size of the Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor,

   e) Establishing an archive of the documentation of all buildings, structures, and human-made landscape features within the property, and collect documentation as a knowledge and reference base for any future intervention,

   f) Further documenting the biodiversity of the forest,

   g) Developing a heritage-value-based visitor management focused on the global significance of the property and aimed at reducing the impact of visitors on the ecological processes of the forest,

   h) Ensuring more substantial involvement of the Indigenous People associated with the property,

   i) Withholding the concessions for opening additional quarries in the Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve and prepare an action plan to progressively remove all quarrying activity from it;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, a revised map showing an additional buffer zone and tertiary zone, a corrected map showing the status of the small triangular portion of the property, and a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Tilaurakot-Kapilavastu, the Archaeological Remains of the Ancient Shakya Kingdom, Nepal**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:

   a) Complete the investigation of the apsidal temple and provide more accurate dating and history of the structure to strengthen the argument of the significance of Tilaurakot as an exceptional testimony to the veneration of the Buddha and his teachings to justify criterion (iii),

   b) Pursue further research on the religious architecture at Tilaurakot testifying to the pilgrimage to the site, believed to be the hometown of Lord Buddha from at least the Mauryan period onwards, to demonstrate the exceptional way in which these structures reflect the association of Tilaurakot with the life and teachings of the Buddha and the development of Buddhist tradition, to justify criterion (vi),

   c) Re-submit the nomination as a significant boundary modification of the World Heritage property of "Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha" (Nepal, 1997);

3. Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;

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

   a) Considering hydrological modelling in planning for the protection of the nominated property against flooding,

   b) Completing archaeological risk mapping in the proposed buffer zone to better understand the archaeological potential of areas surrounding the nominated property,

   c) Ensuring that the procedures and format for Heritage Impact Assessment are consistent with the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* and that Heritage Impact Assessment is conducted before any development project within the nominated property and the immediate setting that has archaeological potential.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Petroglyphs along the Bangucheon Stream, Republic of Korea**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i)** and **(iii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   The property is located along the Bangucheon Stream on the south-eastern coast of the Korean Peninsula. It extends for approximately three kilometres along this meandering waterway, in a landscape of stratified cliffs. Within this specific setting, there are two rock panels with remarkable concentrations of petroglyphs namely, the Daegok-ri Petroglyphs and the Cheonjeon-ri Petroglyphs. The petroglyphs depict a wide range of images engraved by successive generations of local artists, using stone and metal tools, spanning a period from the prehistoric to the historic eras, from 5,000 BCE to the 9th century CE.

   The animals, human figures, hunting scenes, concentric circles, diamonds and writing carved into the rock show great realism and dynamism, while displaying a specific composition of figurative images and epigraphs. In particular, the petroglyphs

representing animals, both aquatic and land-based, present a level of detail that makes it possible to discern the precise species of each animal.

These various images and inscriptions are an exceptional demonstration of this long tradition of rock engraving, extending from the Neolithic period through the Bronze Age and up to the Silla period.

Criterion (i): The Petroglyphs along the Bangucheon Stream display a wide range of images executed with great artistic mastery over the course of millennia by the coastal inhabitants of East Asia. The acute sense of observation reflected in the realistic depictions of various motifs and their specific compositions demonstrate the exceptional aesthetic sense of these artists. Their creativity is particularly evocative in prehistoric images depicting whales and certain stages of whaling, a subject only rarely represented in rock art around the world.

Criterion (iii): The Petroglyphs along the Bangucheon Stream attest to a tradition of rock carving that was practised for approximately 6,000 years within the landscape formed by the Bangucheon Stream. These rock carvings are exceptional because they demonstrate a complex form of artistic expression and concisely illustrate the cultural evolution of the coastal inhabitants of the peninsula over this long period.

Integrity

The property includes all of the attributes that convey its Outstanding Universal Value. A dam constructed outside the southern boundary of the buffer zone has, in the past, created significant environmental pressures on one part of the petroglyphs of the property, but its negative impact has now been largely mitigated.

Authenticity

The property retains a high level of authenticity in its form and design, its materials and substance, location and setting. The dam outside the buffer zone caused some degree of topographical transformation, but this has been restored. Overall, the attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value of the property have been kept virtually intact until today.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected under the Cultural Heritage Protection Act and other relevant laws, such as the Water Supply and Waterworks Installation Act and the Forest Protection Act. The property and its buffer zone are designated nationally as protected areas (under the category of Scenic Site). The two rock panels that have a high concentration of petroglyphs are also listed as National Treasures. Conservation and restoration projects for the property are carried out by specialist institutes and nationally certified professionals in order to preserve its integrity and authenticity.

The local government has established a dedicated property management body that is responsible for drawing up an integrated management plan, coordinating inputs from various stakeholders, and performing other tasks related to the management of the property. The local government is working to control the environmental pressures on one part of the property, particularly with regard to the potential drying out of the Daegok-ri panel due to the redevelopment of the Sayeon Dam. The central and local governments continuously monitor a number of physical and biological parameters to ensure that the state of conservation of the property is maintained.

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

   a) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the progress of the Sayeon Dam works,

   b) Ensuring the effective operationalisation of the Bangucheon Petroglyphs World Heritage Centre,

c) Formalising the role of local communities and residents in the management system,

d) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Ancient Khuttal, Tajikistan** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iii)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Ancient Khuttal serial property represents the heritage of a region and a medieval kingdom that existed in the piedmont of the Pamir Mountains from the 7th to the 16th centuries. The property comprises 11 component parts located within the historic boundaries of Ancient Khuttal. The area is limited by the Panj River in the south, the Vakhsh River in the north-west, and the ridges of the Pamir in the east, in what is today the Khatlon region in the Republic of Tajikistan.

Ancient Khuttal represents the cultural exchanges and transformations in North-Eastern Bactria and Tokharistan over several centuries, which played a pivotal role in its formation. Khuttal had secured its independent and semi-independent status, providing the remarkable evidence of historic continuity and the mutual influences in particular at the time of the Hephtalites, Turkic Khaganate, Arab Caliphate, Samanid, Ghaznavid, and Mongol Empires. Located on a regional section of the Silk Roads, the medieval kingdom was well integrated into the Central Asian trade networks due to the production and export of salt, gold, and silver, and a local breed of horses. This trade, together with the unique water use practices, conditioned the prosperity of Ancient Khuttal.

The serial property is represented by the capital city and the palace of rulers of Ancient Khuttal, religious sites, major settlements with fortifications and production centers, and a caravanserai. These selected component parts reflect the complexity of the political, economic, cultural, and religious aspects of the historical region in the key stages of its emergence and development. They are also an example of the human-nature interaction in the Piedmont zone, illustrated by the remains of the early medieval canals and water supply systems.

Criterion (ii): Ancient Khuttal illustrates an important interchange of human values over a span of eight centuries in Central Asia. This is reflected in the distinctive architecture, urban planning, and religious beliefs. The property illustrates the integration of cultural influences of several subsequent powers in the region, including the Hephtalites, Turkic Khaganate, Arab Caliphate, and the Samanid, Ghaznavid, and Mongol Empires.

Criterion (iii): The property is overlaid by rich cultural layers, being an exceptional testimony to the disappeared cultural tradition of Ancient Khuttal that existed on the piedmonts of the Pamir from the 7th to the 16th centuries. These layers are evidenced by the remains of buildings, settlements, religious sites, and infrastructure, and numerous artefacts reflecting the emergence and development of this unique independent and semi-independent region of the north-eastern Bactria and Tokharistan.

Integrity

The integrity of Ancient Khuttal is ensured at the level of the overall serial property and the individual component part level. At the serial property level, the diversity of forms and functions of the selected component parts fully demonstrates the disappeared cultural tradition of Khuttal, its major stages in history, and various aspects of its political, economic, cultural, and religious development, as well as its urban planning and water-use practices. This is demonstrated with archaeological sites and historic structures representing the remains of the capital city and the palace of the rulers of Khuttal, religious sites, major settlements with fortifications and production centers, and a caravanserai. At the individual component part level, all attributes that are needed to convey the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the serial property are included in the territories of the component parts. Their territory is adequate to ensure the complete representation of the features and stages contributing to the understanding of the significance of Ancient Khuttal.

The factors affecting the property, such as housing and livestock grazing, are under the control of the State Party through land-use restrictions and planning regulations established within the territories and the buffer zones of the component parts. The local conditions affecting the physical fabric of the archaeological sites included in the nomination are mainly controlled by the backfilling of the excavated areas and maintenance.

Authenticity

The authenticity of Ancient Khuttal resides at both the overall serial property level and the individual component part level. At the serial property level, the geographical conditions and the landscape settings that had shaped Ancient Khuttal remained relatively unchanged over centuries. At the component part level, the location, materials, planning, and layout of the sites remain unchanged. The authentic form and design can still be proved based on the partial excavations and archaeological findings. The archaeological sites included in the nomination have been mainly backfilled to protect the cultural layers from deterioration, also providing an opportunity for future scientific research and dissemination of the results to the public. The original materials and design are still present at the historic religious building included in the nomination. Minimal conservation interventions have been conducted based on international standards. Its original use and function as a pilgrimage site are maintained.

Protection and management requirements

The legal protection of the Ancient Khuttal serial property operates at the national and component part levels. At the national level, the legal protection is based on the Law on Protection and Use of the Objects of Historical and Cultural Heritage (2006) and complemented by several decrees of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. Following the national legislation, all 11 component parts are state-owned and designated as cultural heritage sites. At the component part level, all 11 component parts have been surveyed, studied, and documented; their boundaries and buffer zones, corresponding to the national protection zones, have been demarcated and approved by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan. This includes land-use restrictions and planning regulations necessary for conservation purposes, put into effect.

The Ancient Khuttal serial property is managed at the national and component part levels. At the national level, the overall management of the property is implemented by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan, guided by the documented management system. The management system is based on the overall vision of the Ancient Khuttal serial property was developed with the involvement of the relevant stakeholders and sets seven strategic objectives involving the overall conservation, protection, management, research, tourism, and interpretation of the component parts. The Management System has acknowledged the involvement of local communities in

their protection and management, and supports the implementation of the UN2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Ministry of Culture conducts meetings with relevant stakeholders to resolve arising issues on the protection and management of the Ancient Khuttal serial property. It also provides the necessary tools and training to the component part managers and encourages research and joint activities for the protection and promotion of the sites.

At the component part level, each site is managed by the district Departments of Culture, coordinated by the Administration of the Culture of Khatlon region under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tajikistan. The departments are responsible for the daily maintenance, management, and monitoring of the state of conservation of the component parts. The costs of these activities are covered by the local and regional annual budgetary funds.

The Ministry of Culture allocates extra budgetary funds for individual projects at the component parts through the State Programmes for the Protection of Historical and Cultural Heritage and seeks international cooperation to improve the conservation, interpretation, capacity-building, and research. The projects and their respective Heritage Impact Assessments are implemented with the support of international and national academic institutions. The process of developing Management Plans for each started in 2023 with the support of the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS). It is foreseen that the process will continue in the coming years.

4. Requests the State Party to:

   a) Complete the state certification process for the Shahristoni Hulbuk (2b) and Manzaratepa (3) component parts,

   b) Provide information on the management system following the process of transferring responsibilities from the Ministry of Culture to the Agency of Historical and Cultural Heritage Protection,

   c) Developing an overall management plan for the serial property as a whole, a tourism management plan, and an interpretation plan,

   d) Completing the management plans for each component part,

   e) Preparing a disaster risk preparedness plan for each component part,

   f) Implementing mitigation measures to prevent the destruction of the Tohir Caravanserai (8) from Toirsu River erosion,

   g) Conducting conservation interventions and daily maintenance for the exposed architectural structures of the Ajinatepa Buddhist Monastery (1), Kalai Hulbuk (2a), and Halevard (Kofirkala) (6) to address the issue of deterioration by natural elements and vegetation growth,

   h) Backfilling the two areas excavated in the 2017-2020 campaign at Shahristoni Hulbuk (2b),

   i) Establishing and implementing the monitoring system with improved indicators and administrative arrangements to ensure a timely response to emergency events, to identify trends, and to support the state of conservation in the long term,

   j) Introducing a Heritage Impact Assessment procedure for any new developments in the buffer zones of the component parts,

   k) Undertaking capacity building for the local custodians on a regular basis,

   l) Enhancing the involvement of local communities and the role of local custodians in the decision-making process;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2026** a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

6. Decides that the name of the property be changed to "**Cultural Heritage Sites of Ancient Khuttal**".

Decision: 47 COM 8B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **Yen Tu-Vinh Nghiem-Con Son, Kiep Bac Complex of Monuments and Landscapes, Viet Nam** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iii) and (vi)**[1];

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Yen Tu – Vinh Nghiem – Con Son, Kiep Bac Complex of Monuments and Landscapes, with Truc Lam Buddhism at its core – founded in the 13th century by Tran Kings, notably King-Buddha Tran Nhan Tong, offers a distinctive and enduring contribution to the cultural and spiritual heritage of humanity. Rooted in the sacred mountain landscape of Yen Tu, Truc Lam Buddhism represents a syncretic philosophical and spiritual system that harmonizes Mahayana Buddhism with Confucian ethics, Taoist cosmology, and Vietnamese local beliefs. It thus, fully aligns with UNESCO's fundamental goal of upholding humanity's shared values of peace, reconciliation and harmony, particularly in the face of global crisis.

Through its well-preserved temples, hermitages, pilgrimage routes, steles, woodblocks, and sacred sites spanning from Yen Tu to Vinh Nghiem and Con Son – Kiep Bac, the serial property reflects all stages of Truc Lam Buddhism's development: from its founding and institutionalization to its revival and continuing transmission. These places, shaped by centuries of devotion, remain vibrant religious centres and pilgrimage destinations, affirming the living tradition's spiritual and cultural relevance both in Viet Nam and across the diaspora.

The property meets criteria (iii) and (vi) by demonstrating the unique fusion of state, religion and people in the formation of Vietnamese nationhood; and enduring sacred landscape shaped through sustainable interaction with nature; and an ethical system grounded in peace loving, self-cultivation, benevolence and social harmony.

Criterion (iii): A strategic alliance of the State, religion and the people developing from the Yen Tu mountainous homeland created a unique cultural tradition of global significance that shaped nationhood and fostered peace and security in the wider region.

The property provides exceptional testimony to Truc Lam Buddhism, a uniquely Vietnamese Zen tradition dated in 13th century by Tran kings, royal family and leading monastic figures, notably King-Buddha Tran Nhan Tong, the only known monarch in Asia who voluntarily abdicated his throne to become a monk. Integrating Mahayana Buddhism with Confucianism, Taoism and local beliefs, truc Lam Buddhism contributed to the spiritual foundation and the rise of an independent state, resilient Vietnamese societies over time and foster peace amidst the global instability in the 13th century. The complex

[1] This serial property does not include the following component parts: An Sinh Temple (No.2), Thai Lang Mausoleum (No.3), Bi Thuong Pagoda (No.5), Suoi Tam Pagoda (No.6), Cam Thuc Pagoda (No.7), Ho Thien Pagoda (No.11), Dong Van Muoi Stake-yard (No.19), and Dong Ma Ngua Stake-yard (No.20).

continues to be the place of enduring cultural – religious tradition practices and inspire the community in Viet Nam and internationally.

Criterion (vi): Truc Lam Buddhism is a globally significant illustration of the way a religion, derived from several sources of belief, originating and developing from its spiritual homeland in Yen Tu, influenced the secular society fostering a strong nation, ensuring regional peace and cooperation.

The property is directly associated with the founding and diffusion of Truc Lam Buddhism. The continual celebration of rituals, festivals, scriptures and pilgrimage to sacred sites – both in Viet Nam and Truc Lam Buddhism institutions internationally – attest to the enduring global relevance of the spiritual philosophy of self-discipline, living in harmony with the nature, peace loving and benevolence.

Integrity

The 12 components collectively express the full scope of the Truc Lam Buddhist tradition, from its founding at Yen Tu Mountain evidenced in ancient temples, archaeological remains, to its institutionalization at Vinh Nghiem temple and Con Son – Kiep Bac complex of monuments and landscape, and its philosophical codification in associated inscription, relics and ritual practices. The serial sites offer a full representation of the historical, spiritual and geographical dimensions of Truc Lam Zen Buddhism, capturing its emergence, diffusion and enduring relevance across time and space. The property maintains visual, functional and associative integrity, reinforced by active religious use, traditional stewardship practices and legally designed protection zones. Adequate buffer-zones are clearly marked to ensure the integrity of the serial property and its proper management and protection.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the property is firmly grounded in the sacred origin of the Yen Tu Mountain range, which has been continuously venerated and protected for centuries as the spiritual heartland of Truc Lam Buddhism. This enduring reverence is expressed through both the physical preservation of religious monuments and the uninterrupted practice of rituals, festivals and spiritual teachings across generations. Evidence supporting the authenticity of the property is also drawn from archaeological investigations, imperial annals, religious scriptures, epitaphs, maps and inscriptions. The significance of each site is rooted in its original location, spiritual function, architectural form and sustained traditional use. Most of the monuments were originally built for Buddhist worship, religious instruction or to honour royal ancestors, national heroes and historical events – functions that continue to this day.

The structures that have been reconstructed recently follow strict national conservation regulations and adhered to traditional construction methods and materials such as gritstone, sandstone, terracotta and locally sourced timber. The restorations are necessary due to historical periods of conflicts and natural degradation, yet they reflect an authentic continuation of Vietnamese architectural and spiritual heritage. Notably, all temples and monuments remain in their original locations and their restoration was based on historical records, archaeological evidence and oral tradition. The authenticity of the property is not only evident in the material fabric of the sites, but also in their ongoing religious significance, community stewardship and the enduring spiritual connection between people and landscape.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected within Special National Monuments, protected forests, national parks and nature reserves that are strictly protected under national laws. It is governed under the jurisdiction of the People's Committees of three provinces and managed overall by the Yen Tu Management Board, guided by a legally binding management plan. The boundaries of the property and buffer zone are agreed and confirmed. There is

strong commitment to protection and financial support from the Government and provincial authorities, with the full support of stakeholders and local people. There are some potential threats to the property and buffer zone, none of which is of immediate or significant concern or having negative impact.

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

   a) Improving the interpretation and presentation of the property in line with the core narrative on the development of Truc Lam Buddhism as stipulated in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the property,

   b) Envisaging extending the boundaries of the property to fully encompass an area of the Yen Tu sacred mountain landscape which includes the important structures, sites, and landscapes that reflect the origin and development of Truc Lam Buddhism,

   c) Completing and implementing on an urgent basis a systematic conservation process, including enhanced restoration techniques, taking into account the need to maintain the authenticity of the buildings, structures, archaeological sites, and other relevant elements,

   d) Consolidating a comprehensive archaeological map of the Yen Tu area that will serve as a basis for further research and facilitate the dissemination of Yen Tu heritage's characteristics of the property both locally and internationally,

   e) Including a general conservation plan in the management system of the property that adheres to the principle of minimal intervention and is consistent with international charters and UNESCO recommendations,

   f) Improving the security and safety measures currently in place, especially for the woodblocks,

   g) Improving the indicator monitoring system to ensure reliable and accessible data storage,

   h) With the view of future increase in the number of visitors, consolidating the different activities and projections into a formal tourism management plan,

   i) Further researching traditional knowledge on intangible heritage in order to enhance the understanding of the property,

   j) Ensuring adequate consultation and effective participation of local people in the management of the property,

   k) Increasing efforts to manage village growth and transportation infrastructure that may affect the property, and addressing domestic wastewater and agricultural fertilizer run-off that is affecting rivers,

   l) Preventing sand mining in the upstream area of the buffer zones, as well as illegal coal mining, preferably by offering alternative sustainable livelihoods to people involved in the activity,

   m) Ensuring that all relevant projects within the property and the buffer zone be subject to Heritage Impact Assessment;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2026**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

C.4 EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

C.4.1 New Nominations

Decision: 47 COM 8B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Megaliths of Carnac and of the shores of Morbihan, France**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (i)** and **(iv)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Located in Brittany, in the west of France, in the area that spreads between the Quiberon peninsula and the Gulf of Morbihan, this serial property composed of four component parts comprises a high density of megalithic structures that showcase Neolithic monumental architecture erected successively over more than two millennia (from approximately 5000 to 2300 BCE) in relation to the specific topographical features of the area – both relief and hydrography.

A variety of monumental stone structures, such as menhirs, standing stone (or stelae) alignments, stone circles (cromlechs), cairns, and funerary architecture of different types – such as passage tombs (dolmens) or cist graves – with tumuli or simple mounds, were constructed in specific locations, the intervisibility between them playing a role in their positioning.

The property preserves also a rich repertoire of parietal art engraved on stone slabs with representations of objects, animals, as well as abstract forms, all of which constitute a symbolic iconographic programme that must have been executed according to a predefined code. Although it is not yet possible to explain with certainty the reasons for erecting these structures, the logic of their implantation in the landscape, and the intended connections between them and the surrounding environment, this megalithic ensemble indicates a symbolic perception of the surrounding coastal and riparian landscape by the Neolithic populations that once inhabited this part of the European Atlantic Coast.

The associated deposits of precious objects made of rare materials of distant places found buried in particular places of the landscape, contribute to the understanding of the symbolic nature of the megalithic ensemble.

Criterion (i): By reason of their scale, density and diversity, the Megaliths of Carnac and of the shores of Morbihan represent an exceptional testament to the technological sophistication and skilfulness of the Neolithic communities, which enabled them to extract, transport and handle monumental stones and earth to create a complex symbolic space that reveals a specific relationship of the people to their living environment. A rich repertoire of engravings of remarkable density includes representational art which is rarely documented in the megalithic contexts and constitutes one of the earliest examples of this type in Western Europe.

Criterion (iv): The Megaliths of Carnac and of the shores of Morbihan, spread over a vast area, are an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble that represents the transition to a new way of human interaction with the environment, involving the construction of monumental structures according to a specific orientation towards topographical features, visual interconnections and in relation to the geomorphology of the area. The megalithism of the Morbihan region testifies to over 2,000 years of human

activity in this territory and marks a significant stage in the human history of ideological transformations that accompanied the process of neolithisation of Western Europe.

Integrity

All component parts contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value, as they complement each other, having once been part of one coherent cultural landscape. The property encompasses the preserved megalithic structures and elements of the natural environment in relation to which the monumental architecture was constructed, oriented or which constituted the culturally meaningful setting for these structures. The megaliths and the accompanying parietal art are relatively well preserved though many have suffered the effects of the passage of time since their creation. Natural erosion, colluvium, and rise in sea levels, combined with the anthropogenic activity, including dismantling and reuse of the megalithic structures, have impacted the wholeness and integrity of some monuments, or led to their complete disappearance. The integrity of the property remains vulnerable due to developmental pressures, seaside tourism, afforestation practices, and climate change. While the perception of the spatial organisation of the megaliths in the landscape is today only partially preserved and its logic not well understood, the megalithic structures, seen together as an ensemble rather than individually, allow to appreciate the complexity of the megalithic project.

Authenticity

The preserved ensemble of monumental structures comprising the property provides an insight into the megalithic phenomenon of the Neolithic period, even if archaeological research has confirmed that the original megalithic network included more structures. In spite of a certain amount of destruction and rearrangement of the stone architecture, the thorough documentation and scientific knowledge accumulated to date have ensured that the property retains a sufficient level of authenticity. Reconstructions represent a limited number of cases, and minimal intervention is practiced as a conservation approach. Although the natural setting of the megaliths has changed substantially – structurally, ecologically, and in terms of character and function – the spatial organisation of the structures in the landscape remains partly legible, while intervisibility between them and significant topographical features are preserved in certain locations.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected through numerous regulations under three French key legal documents – Heritage Code, Environment Code, and Town Planning Code. Forty-one per cent of megalithic structures are protected together with their immediate surroundings as listed or registered historical monuments. Additional protection is ensured through the designation of the Outstanding Heritage Site (SPR) of Carnac. The submerged megalithic structures remain unprotected, but the development of the coastline is legally controlled. Several sectors of the property benefit from the protection on account of their natural values. Multiple planification tools are also in place at the local level to control development, especially Local Urban Plans (PLUs, municipal level) and Territorial Coherence Schemes (SCoTs, supra-municipal level). The latter are the principal management tools through which the management of the property will be eventually implemented.

About a quarter of the megalithic structures in the property is in public ownership. Others are privately-owned.

At the national level, the Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs (DRAC), the Regional Directorate for the Environment, Planning and Housing (DREAL), and the Regional Directorate for Nutrition, Agriculture and Forestry (DRAAF) are responsible for the protection and management of the property, together with their counterparts at the departmental level. At the local level, multiple local authorities, public and private entities and individuals oversee the maintenance and management of the property.

The governance system of the property includes a Steering Committee (COPIL) as the decision-making body, and a Technical Committee (COTECH) as its operational counterpart, while the association Paysages de mégalithes, composed of all types of stakeholders involved in the management of the megalithic sites and monuments, plays a coordinating role. The future management is envisaged in a partnership-focused way, the association becoming the ultimate management body of the property. The management plan has been prepared collaboratively by the association Paysages de mégaliths and is being implemented.

This scheme aims to secure knowledge, preservation and protection of the property and its component parts, as well as communication about it with a view to its collective appropriation by all stakeholders and visitors.

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

   a) Pursuing further the legal protection of the monuments and sites of the property that are not yet protected,

   b) Ensuring adequate capacity and competence within the association Paysages de mégalithes, and putting at its disposal the necessary management and control tools to implement the management plan,

   c) Finalising the monitoring programme for the property, as well as the communication and promotion plan to harmonise the narrative presented to the public,

   d) Finalising the reference book (cahier de référence Mégalithes et Patrimoine mondial) and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes **The Palaces of King Ludwig II of Bavaria: Neuschwanstein, Linderhof, Schachen and Herrenchiemsee – From Dreams to Reality, Germany**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

   Brief synthesis

   The Palaces of King Ludwig II of Bavaria are located in the Free State of Bavaria, in Swabia and Upper Bavaria, Germany. Carefully sited in the Alps and their foothills, in landscapes of high natural and aesthetic qualities, they were designed and built as places of seclusion, according to the romantic vision and under the meticulous supervision of King Ludwig II of Bavaria during his reign from 1864 to 1886. These palaces were built solely as private residences and were intended to inspire the enjoyment of art and the appreciation of beauty. Lavishly decorated and varying in nature and appearance, Neuschwanstein Castle, Linderhof Palace and its garden and park, the King's House on Schachen, and Herrenchiemsee New Palace with its garden were conceived in the age of historicism and eclecticism. Being staged visual architecture for poetic, imagined worlds, the four palaces made full use of the stylistic trends and technical possibilities of the era. To achieve the desired results and effect of "total works of art" (Gesamtkunstwerke), the best artists, craftspeople, and latest technologies were used. The inspirations for their forms and appearances were derived from, among others, Wartburg Castle, the Palace of Versailles and its gardens, and Richard Wagner's operas.

   Criterion (iv): The Palaces of King Ludwig II of Bavaria are remarkably well-preserved, and display a varied range of architectural and artistic styles. They testify to great intellectual and symbolic depth, and demonstrate a high level of artistic and technological

skill. The four component parts individually and collectively represent a symbiosis of popular architectural trends during the second half of the 19th century, particularly the penchant for historicism and eclecticism. Conceived as places of seclusion, the four castles were built under the meticulous direction of King Ludwig II. They were designed as total works of art of remarkable beauty, scale and luxury, and incorporate scenic and theatrical effects.

Integrity

The serial property contains all the attributes necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value, including buildings, structures, and associated parks and gardens. All the component parts of the property are in a good state of conservation and remain largely unchanged since the death of King Ludwig II. They are characterised by their exceptional locations, outstanding natural beauty of their settings, and deliberately chosen seclusion. None of the component parts suffer from the adverse effects of development or neglect.

Authenticity

The component parts of the series are in their original locations, and their settings remain highly evocative of the past. The key attributes are authentic in terms of their forms and designs, and their historic materials and substances have been conserved to the degree possible. The associated gardens and parks have been managed with sensitivity to their historical configurations. The feeling of the visual world of King Ludwig II has been maintained.

Protection and management requirements

Statutory protection for the four component parts is governed by the Law on the Protection and Preservation of Monuments (Bavarian Monument Protection Law – BayDSchG) of 25 June 1973, as amended. The component parts have been registered as monuments since the 1970s. Additionally, according to the BayDSchG, a World Heritage property has special protection status, and all alterations require relevant consent. Furthermore, the laws and regulations relating to the protection of nature and landscapes, and of water resources, as well as other regulations also apply within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zones.

The Palaces of King Ludwig II of Bavaria are owned by the Free State of Bavaria. The responsible authority for the management of the property is the Bavarian Palace Department, which, in close cooperation with the Bavarian State Office for the Preservation of Monuments and other parties involved, coordinates and supervises all structural, restoration, and conservation works. A steering group will monitor the conservation of the component parts and the protection of their respective buffer zones.

A draft management plan has been prepared to be used as a communication and coordination instrument that facilitates participatory management of the serial property and its settings. It should be revised to include a visitor management strategy that responds to the factors affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and to address issues relating to the natural and cultural environment of the property that should be effectively synchronised and fully integrated into management practices.

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

   a) Approving and implementing the draft management plan after revising it to include a forward-looking strategy that responds to the factors affecting the Outstanding Universal Value, the role and impact of tourism on the local and regional economy, the role of local communities, and issues relating to the natural and cultural environment of the property that should be further synchronised and fully integrated into management practices,

b) Making operational the proposed steering group chaired by the Bavarian Palace Department that will monitor all construction and design measures affecting the component parts and coordinate World Heritage-relevant projects planned in their immediate settings,

c) Identifying more precisely the key attributes that support the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and thereby form the focus of protection, conservation, and management actions,

d) Developing specific monitoring indicators that relate to the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value, on the basis of more structured, purpose-related, and detailed data, to facilitate effective conservation and management in the future,

e) Developing and implementing an overall visitor strategy as a priority to mitigate the impacts of mass tourism,

f) Ensuring that participatory processes with the local community are developed and integrated into the management plan and are part of the daily management of the property,

g) Better integrating the local authorities and agencies which have responsibility over the buffer zones and wider settings into the management and governance system of the property, given the vital role the surrounding landscape plays in each component part.

5. Decides that the name of the serial property be changed to "**The Palaces of King Ludwig II of Bavaria: Neuschwanstein, Linderhof, Schachen and Herrenchiemsee**".

Decision: 47 COM 8B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Minoan Palatial Centres, Greece**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)**, **(iii)**, **(iv)** and **(vi)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Minoan Palatial Centres, consisting of six component sites (Knossos, Phaistos, Malia, Zakros, Zominthos and Kydonia), are located in Crete, a strategically positioned island at the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. They constitute the most authentic and representative expression of the Minoan Civilization, one of the most remarkable prehistoric civilizations of Eastern Mediterranean that developed over the course of two millennia (2800-1100 BC) boasting advanced social organization, artistic achievements and architectural ingenuity.

The Minoan Palatial Centres stand out for their unique monumental architecture, with its intricate internal organization, which passed into ancient Greek memory as the "Labyrinth", the advanced urban planning and a high developed society with complex economic, administrative, ritual and social structures. Distributed in different geographical units, from the eastern to the western end of Crete, the Minoan Palaces functioned as administrative, economic and religious centres of a wider geographical area and housed multiple activities. The close relationship of the Minoans with their environment, as reflected in their art and the adaptation of palatial architecture to the natural landscape, showcases their understanding of and interaction with nature.

The sophistication of the Minoan architecture, the material evidence of early writing systems and of maritime networks and interactions with other Mediterranean cultures,

as well as the immensely rich mythology related to the Minoan Palaces, that has had a lasting impact on art and culture, continuing to inspire to today creativity across various fields, all advocate for the overall value of the property.

The component sites share many attributes in common, but at the same time each one demonstrates individual features, that cover all aspects and phases of the Minoan Civilization, from its dawn till the end of Prehistory, thus adding to the property's overall Outstanding Universal Value.

Criterion (ii): The Minoan Palatial Centres provide evidence of early urban development showcasing complex socio-political structures functionally organized around a hierarchical administrative system. They also constitute an important testimony to the organization of towns and cities around them, the transmitting of art craftsmanship and trends as well as to the development of monumental architecture, advanced technology and high level of artistic expression attained by the Minoan Civilization.

Criterion (iii): The Minoan Palatial Centres constitute an important point of reference in the history of Mankind, since they provide material testimonies regarding the development of early economic systems, including agriculture, animal husbandry and sea-trade. They also form a valuable documentation source on the two earliest writing systems in Europe – the Cretan Hieroglyphic and the Linear A Script – which were invented in Crete, as early as the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC. Based on the evidence provided by both archaeobotanical research and Linear B tablets, the process and use of olive oil, wine, aromatic and medicinal plants was widely known in the Minoan Palaces and continues up to this day.

Criterion (iv): The sophistication of Minoan architecture is eloquently demonstrated in the concept of the palaces and is further reflected by their layouts, featuring spacious courtyards, grand halls, and a structured arrangement of rooms spanning over several levels, inspiring the myth of labyrinth. The repeated use of specific modules, assemblies, components, interfaces, methods or processes in the Minoan Palatial Centres indicate a standardization of architectural rules that led to the formulation of a distinct architectural style, already developed as early as the 2nd millennium BC.

Criterion (vi): The legacy of the Minoan Civilization including its myths and social ideas has shaped artistic and intellectual thought through the ages. The legend of the Labyrinth, reflecting the constructional complexity and monumentality of the palaces enjoys, until our days, a universal recognition in terms of terminology, shape and mythology. At the same time Minoan art and design, continue to inspire creation worldwide in various fields such as philosophy, painting, literature, music, poetry, theatre and cinema.

Integrity

The overall integrity of the property is strong and the component parts, individually and collectively, contain all the attributes necessary to express the Outstanding Universal Value and to allow for the reconstruction of their form and function. The property is protected within a comprehensive and detailed legal framework, providing designation and special protection zones. Conservation efforts are focused on preserving the archaeological remains with no harmful developments affecting the monuments, monitoring is taking place on a systematic basis and preventive or protective measures are also systematically undertaken in order to ensure the integrity of the property. \

Authenticity

The authenticity of the property is well preserved. The component parts retain their original forms, designs, and materials, providing visitors with an authentic experience of the Minoan landscape and architecture. Minimal intervention approaches are applied in most cases. More extensive restoration projects have the sole purpose of protecting the monuments and are based on extensive scientific documentation in order to preserve

the authenticity of materials and design. Knossos, though it faces challenges due to the extensive reconstructions carried out in the early 20th century, still holds considerable historical and educational value, whereas all reconstructions are well documented. The agrarian settings surrounding these sites remain largely undisturbed, further enhancing their authenticity and connection to the Minoan era. Minimal intervention approaches and high degree preservation.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected under Law 4858/2021 "Sanction of the Code of Legislation for the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in general" and falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture. Special protection zones are designated for all component sites providing a high level of legal protection. The property is also covered by legal protection mechanisms within other national, regional and international designations, including environmental and urban planning laws and regulations pertaining to building or other development activities near archaeological sites.

The well-coordinated management system, led by the Ministry of Culture, involves other government, regional and municipal authorities as well as local communities in order to ensure the effective preservation of the attributes that support the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Further to the existing management system, the property has an integrated Management Plan tailored to the characteristics and needs of all component sites, individually and as a whole, as well as to their cultural and landscape values. It includes detailed conservation strategies, risk preparedness planning with special focus on addressing climate change and comprehensive approaches to ensure long term sustainability and local engagement. The Management Plan also provides tourism development and financing strategies, to be implemented in collaboration with the Region of Crete within Integrated Territorial Investment and other national and European funded frameworks towards a holistic, inclusive and sustainable heritage management.

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

   a) Examining the possibility to proceed to minor modifications of the boundaries of the buffer zones with natural features on the ground for the component parts in order to further preserve the contextual relationship with their natural environment,

   b) Further developing methods for clearly distinguishing between authentic archaeological remains and later reconstructions carried out in the early 20th century in Knossos component part (001) to ensure that the justification of the Outstanding Universal Value is based on authentic material,

   c) Applying in practice the key monitoring indicators, and gathering baseline data to establish a robust monitoring record,

   d) Expanding the digital documentation for all component parts,

   e) Operationalizing the provisions of the management plan concerning the tourism strategy for the interpretation and presentation of each one of the component parts and the serial property as a whole,

   f) Continuing to provide the World Heritage Centre with updates on the ongoing excavations and conservation efforts at the Kydonia component part (006),

   g) Informing the World Heritage Centre of any intention to undertake or authorise major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,

   h) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism for all development proposals, including but not limited to urbanisation, tourism

infrastructure, and potential alterations related to the component parts, in accordance with the latest ICOMOS heritage impact guidelines.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes the **Funerary Tradition in the Prehistory of Sardinia – *The domus de janas*, Italy,** with the exception of the following component parts: Fortified complex of Monte Baranta (004), Sanctuary of Monte d'Accoddi (006), Necropolis of Li Muri (010), Dolmen of Sa Coveccada (012), Shelter of Luzzanas (013), Village of Serra Linta (017), Grotta Corbeddu (022), Menhir of Monte Corru Tundu (023), Shelter of Su Forru de is Sinzurreddus and the stone tool workshops of Sennixeddu (024), on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;

3. Takes note of the following provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The site "Funerary Tradition in the Prehistory of Sardinia: the domus de janas" comprises a series of hypogean burials and necropolises located in Sardinia, created between the 5th and 3rd millennia BCE.

The domus de janas, locally known as "fairy houses," are rock-cut tombs that reflect the funerary practices, spiritual beliefs, and social evolution of Sardinia's prehistoric communities. These structures feature complex layouts, symbolic decorations, and figurative motifs that testify to the transformation of the relationship between the living and the dead in a society transitioning toward more complex forms of social organization.

The domus de janas represent the most extensive and rich manifestation of hypogean funerary architecture in the western Mediterranean, exemplifying a phenomenon attested by approximately 3,500 hypogea spread across the entire island. The sculpted and engraved figures found in many of the tombs show striking similarities with motifs present in major prehistoric art sites of the Neolithic and Copper Age in Europe, such as Valcamonica, Monte Bego, and the Iberian Peninsula. These similarities testify to the material and cultural exchanges between Sardinia and other regions of the Euro-Mediterranean basin.

Moreover, the hypogean necropolises were closely connected to contemporary villages, serving as the focal point of ritual practices and the symbolic expression of community organization. This confirms the existence of a complex cultural system that integrated residential settlements, cultural places and funerary spaces within a unified landscape.

Criterion (iii): The domus de janas of Sardinia represent a unique and exceptional testimony of a vanished cultural tradition, related to the cult of the dead and beliefs about the afterlife developed by the island's prehistoric communities between the 5th and 3rd millennia BCE. The architectural variety, decorative complexity, and planimetric evolution of these hypogean tombs document—like no other site in the Mediterranean—the social organization, rituals, and spiritual conception of the island's earliest settled communities, showing both continuity and cultural transformations up to the beginning of the Bronze Age.

Integrity

The domus de janas constitute a representative and coherent ensemble encompassing all known typological variants of this funerary hypogeal tradition. They fully meet the criterion of integrity both as a whole, and with reference to individual monuments and complexes considering their decorative apparatus. The 17 component parts include all

the elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value, ensuring the integrity and completeness of the testimony to the cultural and architectural evolution of the phenomenon in Sardinia from the Neolithic to the early Bronze Age. The series of Domus de Janas is the most representative, and best preserved, expression of the funerary practices, spiritual beliefs, and social evolution of that period, both in terms of number of attributes and diversity of features. They are closely related to the landscape context where they are embedded, whose visual-aesthetic integrity has remained almost unchanged. The natural processes of deterioration are under control, monitored by the competent authorities.

Authenticity

The domus de janas largely preserve their original materials, construction techniques, layouts, and decorative elements. Recent conservation interventions have adhered to scientific standards and respected the material integrity of the sites, thereby ensuring the authenticity of the tombs as direct and tangible evidence of Sardinia's prehistoric culture.

Scientific studies and diverse sources of information, both written and visual (surveys, photographs and drawings), both testify to the authenticity of the individual component parts of the serial site and their attributes.

Protection and management requirements

All the assets in the proposed serial site are subject to national and regional legislation, with a very strict regulation on cultural heritage. The regional territory is under the control of the Superintendencies, peripheral offices of the Ministry of culture. The Code of cultural heritage and landscape (Legislative decree42/2004) sets specific and strict measures concerning protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage.

For the short, medium and long term, a specific Management Plan for the property has been developed. It outlines a governance framework coordinated by the Ministry of Culture and the Region of Sardinia, with the support of the Superintendencies and local administrations. The plan includes measures for maintenance, monitoring, risk mitigation, and awareness-raising programs.

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

   a) Establishing centralised repository for all the relevant documents and incoming monitoring and research data regarding the domus de janas, and make it accessible to all,

   b) Implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism as defined in the *Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* for any development proposals within the property (such as visitor infrastructure) before any irreversible decisions are made,

   c) Developing small-scale monitoring systems tailored to the selected component parts, with monitoring indicators designed for assessing the conditions of the sites, as well as development trends and rates of affecting factors,

   d) Developing a comprehensive tourism management plan, including an interpretation strategy,

   e) Strengthening the involvement of the local communities in the decision-making process for the management of the property,

   f) Establishing a more comprehensive governance system for the property, taking into account all relevant stakeholders;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2026**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for review by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Refers the nomination of **Gdynia. Early Modernist City Centre, Poland**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
    a) Re-examine the delineation of the boundaries of the nominated property to ensure they are consistent, systematic and include additional attributes that support the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, namely the Post Office and Sorting Hall at the Konstytucji Square, the former Swedish Sailor's Church, and the historic row of attached houses for fishermen on Jerzego Waszyngtona Street,
    b) Clarify the rationale for the delineation of the buffer zone, and consider including the contextual waterfront port industry and water bodies towards the south and the east of the Baltic Sea, as well as the entire Kamienna Góra residential area, so that the scale of the interwar modernist development of the city is more easily perceived,
    c) Ensure that the legal provisions applicable to the buffer zone effectively provide an additional layer of protection to the nominated property,
    d) Identify more precisely the key attributes that support the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and form the focus of protection, conservation, and management actions;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
    a) Implementing the key measures of the management plan as soon as possible,
    b) Reviewing the state of the inner courtyards, whose auxiliary outbuildings make it difficult to perceive the original idea of open "green" spaces, and planning the removal of these auxiliary outbuildings accordingly,
    c) Establishing an inventory of historical interiors of registered state and municipal monuments that are accessible to the public (such as semi-public entrance areas, foyers, stairwells, common areas, etc.),
    d) Developing a strategy for the conservation of earlier gable-roofed houses, and integrating it into the conservation plan for the nominated property,
    e) Providing additional evidence and documentation of the participatory consultation process, including on how the complex private ownership issue that characterises the nominated property is being addressed as part of this consultation process,
    f) Developing and implementing as soon as possible a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism for development proposals (such as, inter alia, the Nova Marina Gdynia project, the development at the base of South Pier, the development in Żeromskiego Street, and the development near the "InfoBox – Observatory of Change"), before any irreversible decisions are taken,
    g) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
4. Also recommends that the name of the nominated property be changed to "Gdynia Modernist City Centre".

Decision: 47 COM 8B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Defers the examination of the nomination of **Álvaro Siza's Architecture: A Modern Contextualism Legacy, Portugal**, to the World Heritage List in order to allow the State Party, with the advice of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, if requested, to:
    a) Reconceptualise the nomination to comprise a reduced selection of internationally early influential examples of the works of Álvaro Siza that testify convincingly to the evolution of the Modern Movement towards a contextual approach that integrates local references with global models,
    b) Ensure that the selected component parts are registered as National Monuments,
    c) Complete and make operational the Joint Management Plan and the individual management plans for the selected component parts, as well as the accompanying risk management plans, interpretation and communication plans, maintenance plans, and user manuals,
    d) Create and make operational the association that will be responsible for the overall management of the reconfigured nominated property,
    e) Reconsider the boundaries of the selected component parts to ensure that they fully incorporate entire buildings, and include a sufficiently wide immediate setting to meet the conditions of integrity,
    f) Reconsider the buffer zones for the selected component parts to ensure that they provide an adequate layer of additional protection to the nominated property;
3. Considers that any revised nomination would need to be considered by an expert mission to the site;
4. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
    a) Rationalising the management of the extensive documentation that is currently spread across numerous locations and institutions in order to better support management, conservation, and monitoring initiatives,
    b) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the nominated property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
    c) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for development proposals before any irreversible decisions are made.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Rock Paintings of Shulgan-Tash Cave, Russian Federation,** on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

    Brief synthesis

    The Rock Paintings of Shulgan-Tash Cave, also known as Kapova Cave, are located in the western foothills of the Southern Ural Mountains within the Burzyansky district of the Republic of Bashkortostan, below a karst massif bounded by the Belaya River and the

Shulgan River canyon. The property features large halls, galleries, steep passages, and interconnected siphons and contains extensive Upper Palaeolithic rock paintings in the aphotic zone of the cave.

The rock paintings are found in several chambers at different levels and primarily depict the characteristic fauna of the steppe ecosystem – mammoths, woolly rhinoceroses, bison, horses, and one complete image of a Bactrian camel – as well as anthropomorphic representations, abstract signs, and geometric patterns, including the renowned “Kapova trapezoids". These rock paintings were created during the Last Glaciation Maximum and at the beginning of the deglaciation, between 20,600 and 16,500 calibrated years BP. The climate in the Southern Urals was severe and the temperature in the cave was constantly below 0°C, making it extremely difficult to produce paintings there in comparison with other caves known to display Palaeolithic art.

The rock paintings bear witness in an outstanding way to commonalities in human perceptions of the world and of external phenomena from Western Europe to the Urals during the Late Pleistocene. The peculiarities of these paintings also suggest that a centre of ancient culture existed in the Southern Urals during the Palaeolithic period. They provide insight into shared and different domestic and cultural practices covering vast areas of Europe. In addition, archaeological finds and speleothems provide rare and outstanding evidence of the artistic process, and of the domestic activities carried out by humans in the Shulgan-Tash Cave in the Late Palaeolithic. The property offers a vast potential for future investigations and the advancement of knowledge on production tools for rock art, imagery and paintings in the cave.

The forested immediate and wider setting is mainly intact, with no impact from urbanisation, and contributes to the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Criterion (iii): The Rock Paintings of Shulgan-Tash Cave provide outstanding evidence of the cultural and domestic practices of the Southern Urals Upper Palaeolithic inhabitants. The numerous paintings on the cave walls and the rich archaeological materials found in the cultural layers of the cave sediment offer important comparative and differential perspectives on domestic and cultural practices across vast areas of Europe, highlighting both common and distinctive elements in the use of cave and production of rock art.

Paleontological finds, spores and pollen, charcoal, and dripstones reflect the temporal, climatic and environmental contexts of the Palaeolithic human occupation of the cave. Wall paintings and other evidence of non-utilitarian activities provide additional cultural and anthropological context.

The property offers significant potential for further research and knowledge production.

Integrity

The integrity of the property depends on the preservation of the karst system and the stability of its parameters. The geological, geochemical and microclimatic factors of the deep section of the cave appear stable, ensuring the long-term preservation of the wall paintings and loose sediments containing archaeological materials. Although some painting panels suffered contamination and defacement by graffiti during the initial exploration of the cave, the State Party rapidly protected the property. The attributes are therefore adequately conserved and convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property; they are not in danger of natural decay or neglect.

Factors affecting the property mainly relate to housing and agricultural activities in the buffer zone. These risks are considered low and are closely monitored. However, impacts on the inner part of the cave due to increased visitor numbers in its outer part need constant monitoring, and prompt corrective measures if necessary.

The almost intact character of the remote rural environment of the property needs to be preserved.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the property relies on the numerous paintings on the cave walls depicting Late Pleistocene fauna (mammoth, rhinoceros, bison, horse, camel), as well as the archaeological materials found in the sediments. The paintings were dated using uranium-thorium dating, and are over 14,500 years old. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal has made it possible to determine the age of the cultural layer, which is estimated to be between 20,600 and 16,500 calibrated years BP. This comprehensive collection of data and objects, unequivocally ascribing the Shulgan-Tash paintings to the Upper Palaeolithic era, is genuine in its materials and substance. Palaeontological relics such as spores and pollen, charcoal, and dripstones reflect the time, climate, and environmental background of human occupation of caves in the Palaeolithic era.

Protection and management requirements

The property has been protected as a federal cultural heritage site since 1960. The protection and management of cultural heritage is governed by the Federal Law No. 73, dated 25 June 2002. The property, the buffer zone and the broader setting enjoy additional layers of protection through the designation of this territory as the Shulgan-Tash State Nature Biosphere Reserve and the Altyn-Solok State Wildlife Reserve, both part of the UNESCO Bashkir Urals Biosphere Reserve, and the Bashkirya National Park. The property and its buffer zone are included in the cultural heritage site Land of Ural-Batyr. This territory is covered by a special town-planning regulation that limits economic activities to preserve natural, historical, and cultural monuments.

The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Department for State Protection of Cultural Heritage Sites of the Republic of Bashkortostan, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation and the Ministry for Natural Resources and the Environment of the Republic of Bashkortostan ensure the protection, financing, control, planning and management of the property and its buffer zone. The Shulgan-Tash Cave Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve, is the key management entity for the property and surrounding area, and the Shulgan-Tash State Nature Biosphere Reserve exercises responsibility over the Biosphere and part of the buffer zone.

The cave holds significant sacral importance for the Indigenous Bashkir people. Careful surveillance by the local community provides further protection to the property. Coordination and cooperation among all responsible entities, including local authorities, via a collegial governance and management framework, is essential for effectively protecting, planning and managing the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting.

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

   a) Strengthening the current governance by involving, at the appropriate levels, all relevant actors responsible for managing the property, its buffer zone and wider setting, including the local authorities,

   b) Updating the multiple bilateral agreements under one management agreement involving all relevant actors responsible for the property,

   c) Ensuring that the planning documents in force for Gadelgareevo include measures regulating any potential future building development in the village territory to avoid negative impacts on the property and its setting,

   d) Designing and implementing a research programme for the conservation of the rock paintings with a long-term workplan, and integrating a conservator-restorer into the research team,

e) Strengthening the management plan by integrating a risk preparedness management plan,

f) Strengthening the monitoring system by detailing the geo-structural and microbiological factors and cross-referencing the internal climatic data with periodic assessment of the state of conservation of the paintings,

g) Strictly limiting access to cave spaces containing paintings to scientists, and only if access is necessary for research or conservation purposes,

h) Considering removing the replica of rock art paintings at the entrance of the cave or carefully presenting it as a replica to avoid confusion with the authentic rock paintings,

i) Including the museum visit into the route of the cave tour to introduce visitors to the cultural significance of the rock paintings and their creation before the visit to the outer section of the cave,

j) Considering building a wastewater collector and treatment plant for the Gadelgareevo village, especially if the number of residents increases due to the attractivity of the World Heritage designation,

k) Envisaging more flexible protective mechanisms for the buffer zone and continuing the dialogue with local communities with a view to extending the buffer zone to cover the Gadelgareevo village territory and possibly the entirety of the Land of Ural-Batyr cultural heritage site,

l) Integrating into the management and decision-making system Heritage Impact Assessment processes for all developments planned in the buffer zone or the wider setting, as this setting is key in contributing to the understanding and appreciation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,

2. Inscribes Sardis and the **Lydian Tumuli of Bin Tepe, Türkiye**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criterion (iii)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

Sardis was one of the pre-eminent Iron Age cities of the ancient world. Located in western Türkiye, it was the capital and only city of the Lydians. The Lydians rose to prominence in the 8th-6th centuries BCE, conquering most of western Anatolia and establishing the first empire in the region during the Iron Age. They invented coinage, an innovation that was quickly adopted by their neighbours, with long and widespread impacts on global economies. Located at a crossroads between the Greek world and contemporary Near Eastern cultures, the Lydians established cultural, economic, military, and diplomatic ties to both the Greeks to their west, and the great empires to the east and south, the Assyrians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Phrygians, and others. The downfall of the Lydians despite their wealth, and the perils of the hubris of King Croesus has been reflected in literature since ancient times.

The Lydians developed their capital city with a distinctive system of monumental terraces, creating a scheme of urban planning unlike those of the Greeks, Egyptians, or other peoples of the Near East. They protected the city with a regionally distinctive twenty-meter-thick fortification wall. The necropolis of Bin Tepe is located seven to

seventeen kilometres north of the citadel of Sardis, which includes more than 119 tumuli. The three large tumuli at Bin Tepe are amongst the largest tumulus tombs in the world, and amongst the first to include features such as the crepis wall and marker stones.

Criterion (iii): Sardis and the Lydian Tumuli of Bin Tepe testify to the Lydian civilisation, a native Anatolian people in western Asia Minor during the 1st millennium BCE. The property bears testimony to a vanished culture that had a profound impact on the history of the ancient world though its architecture, customs, and cultural practices. The Lydians had their own language and worshipped a unique pantheon of gods. The city of Sardis had a distinctive urban plan and architecture, and its terracing system served as a prototype for other terraced cities. The tumuli in Bin Tepe are amongst the largest in the world. The Lydians also invented the world's first coinage, and their rapid expansion was facilitated by immense wealth, based on gold.

Integrity

The serial property comprised of two component parts includes all the attributes needed to convey its Outstanding Universal Value, including the full extent of the Lydian city of Sardis and the associated tumuli at Bin Tepe. The boundaries are appropriate, and the buffer zones provide protection to the settings of the component parts. The important visual connection between the two component parts will be strengthened once a single encompassing buffer zone has been implemented. The property exhibits overall an adequate state of conservation, supported by ongoing maintenance and continuing research.

Authenticity

The serial property is a well-preserved archaeological site that retains a high level of authenticity in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value. More than seventy years of excavation and research have revealed a remarkable quality, quantity and variety of archaeological remains with a high level of preservation. Work has been carried out to consolidate excavated structures throughout the Sardis component part. There is a substantial archive of archaeological reports and data, alongside significant artefact collections derived from Sardis. Nonetheless, some past actions have reduced the authenticity of the property, such as some of the reconstructions at Sardis, and looting of the tumuli at Bin Tepe. There are challenges to presenting the Lydian city because of the important structures and layers of archaeological material associated with later civilisations that inhabited it. The wider landscape setting connects the two component parts (and the features they contain) and underpins the authenticity in terms of their location and setting.

Protection and management requirements

All necessary measures for the protection of the archaeological site and its setting are in place.

Each of the component parts is designated as a 1st and 3rd degree archaeological conservation areas by the Izmir No. 2 Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties, ensuring their protection through the provisions of the national Law on the Conservation of Cultural and Natural Property No. 2863 (23 July 1983), as amended by Law No. 5226 (14 July 2004). In addition, some attributes in each of the component parts have been registered individually as cultural properties. Some portions in the southern part of the Sardis component part are not protected to the same level within the national laws. It is encouraged to align the 1st degree archaeological conservation areas with the boundaries of the component parts in future.

The buffer zones and wider setting are designated as 3rd degree archaeological conservation areas by the Izmir No. 2 Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties. This protection is also provided by the implementation of strategic national

and regional plans, and through plans relating to specific locations. Many of these, including the mandatory regional conservation plans are currently in preparation.

Regular maintenance of archaeological features is planned, implemented and monitored through the Sardis Expedition (Harvard Art Museums) conservation programme. A Site Management Plan has been developed to meet the future management needs of the component parts and buffer zones, and to coordinate efforts from many bodies, groups, and individuals. Visitor management actions are planned, as well as improvements to the interpretation of the Lydian elements and of the property as a whole.

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

   a) Continuing the programme of digitising the archive of records in order to improve access, provide a basis for monitoring and management, and enhance awareness of the property,

   b) Providing a single buffer zone, through a minor boundary modification request, integrating the two existing buffer zones in order to recognise and protect the significance of the wider setting and the importance of the visual connections between the two component parts,

   c) Revising the delineations of the 1st degree archaeological conservation areas to align with the boundaries of the component parts in order to ensure consistent levels of protection,

   d) Considering the possibility of extending the buffer zone to include all of Lake Marmara once projects to return water to the lake have been completed,

   e) Continuing to develop and finalising the following conservation plans and programmes as a priority:

      i) Comprehensive property-wide conservation strategy and maintenance programme to enable the appropriate allocation of human and financial resources,

      ii) Conservation Development Plans for Sardis and Bin Tepe (1:5000 and/or 1:1000 scale and associated planning guidance),

      iii) Urban Design Guidelines for each village in and near the property and buffer zones,

      iv) Landscape Plan that will, in part, assist in the appropriate location of new tourism infrastructure,

      v) Izmir Regional Conservation Plan to provide a base line for future decision making,

      vi) Sustainable tourism plan and an interpretation plan that coherently addresses the opportunities, issues and significance of both component parts, and better illuminates the Lydian attributes,

   f) Implementing the planned measures outlined in the Site Management Plan to address the impacts of agricultural uses of private land within the component parts and buffer zones, including engagement with landowners and effective monitoring and enforcement,

   g) Implementing actions outlined in the Site Management Plan to counter looting and illicit excavation as a matter of urgency, including through protection solutions that engage the local community,

   h) Prohibiting all new mining and quarrying licences within the property and the buffer zones,

i) Incorporating Heritage Impact Assessment processes into relevant legal frameworks,

j) Enhancing collaboration with the relevant national and regional authorities to ensure that any future transportation infrastructure and other developments avoid impacts on the property, buffer zones and wider setting and fully integrate the conservation of cultural heritage,

k) Building on the programme established in cooperation with the Sardis Expedition to develop a research agenda and strategy that encompasses both component parts with a focus on exploiting existing data and research, together with ongoing and new programmes of non-invasive fieldwork,

l) Providing additional means of including local community representation in the management system to strengthen the long-term conservation and presentation of the property.

C.5 LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

C.5.1 New Nominations

Decision: 47 COM 8B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes the **Wixárika Route through Sacred Sites to Wirikuta (Tatehuarí Huajuyé), Mexico**, on the World Heritage List on the basis **of criteria (iii)** and **(vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The Wixárika Route through Sacred Sites to Wirikuta (Tatehuarí Huajuyé) is a serial property of twenty component parts that span an area across north-central Mexico of more than 500 kilometres, traversing a number of ecological regions, some of which are important for their biodiversity and other natural values. The rituals along the route are practiced in order to maintain relations with the natural elements considered as ancestral deities, to ensure the success of the milpa agricultural cycle, and to support the general welfare of the people. Together, the component parts comprise the sacred route to Wirikuta - the Path of Our Grandfather Fire - “Tatehuarí Huajuyé”.

The intimate relation of the Wixárika with their territory is expressed throughout the sacred sites and landscapes that occur within the twenty component parts. These express bonds with the worldview of the Wixárika culture, especially with features such as maize, the Golden Eagle, deer, and peyote. The annual pilgrimage involves a sequence of traditional ritual activities that comprise the ceremonial cycles. The property is an exceptional and representative continuing example of the ancestral ceremonial and trade routes that have connected and culturally enriched the peoples of the American continent for millennia.

The attributes of the route include the intangible heritage traditions and practices of the Wixárika, including the veneration of living ancestors in nature, their rich oral tradition passed on through stories, songs, prayers and sacred tales, the ceremonial centres and temples, as well as the crafting of traditional objects. The route is also associated with the milpa traditional agricultural and land-use system.

Criterion (iii): The Wixárika Route through Sacred Sites to Wirikuta (Tatehuarí Huajuyé) is one of the most representative pre-Columbian routes still in use in the Americas and is an exceptional testimony of the continuing cultural traditions of the Wixárika people. The annual pilgrimages of the Wixárika to Wirikuta and other sacred sites are a clear manifestation of a spiritual tradition, reflecting a specific worldview that connects humans with nature and the sacred realm. The route bears witness to the intimate cultural knowledge that the Wixárika have of these lands, plants and animals.

Criterion (vi): The Wixárika Route through Sacred Sites to Wirikuta (Tatehuarí Huajuyé) is an outstanding illustration of the inter-relationship between culture and the natural environment in the spiritual practices of the Wixárika. The sacred sites are imbued with a deep spiritual meaning, representing different elements of the Wixárika worldviews and beliefs. Specific landforms, weather, plants and animals reveal the ancestors, and each component part has specific ritual meaning. Flora and fauna with ritual meaning include tobacco, peyote, deer, and the Golden Eagle. During the travels through this route, elders transmit their knowledge to younger generations through oral traditions, dance, stories, art, music and rituals.

Integrity

This serial property of twenty sites includes the principal sacred sites and landscapes of the Tatehuarí Huajuyé that were selected in close collaboration with Wixárika authorities, and encompasses the necessary attributes that reflect its cultural meaning and historical development. The component parts reflect the sequence of ritual activities performed and stories told by the shamans (maraacames) during the annual pilgrimage and ceremonies.

The annual pilgrimage is a central and continuing element of the Wixárika worldview and culture, reaffirming the spiritual bond between the Wixárika people and its sacred territories. The state of conservation of the component parts is generally good, although they are potentially vulnerable due to a range of factors such as extractive mining, instances of restricted access through private property, urban expansion and inappropriate tourism and peyote consumption.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the property is based on the safeguarding of the spiritual practices, the conservation of the natural landscape (including ecosystems, water quality, species and landforms), and the transmission of cultural traditions within Wixárika communities. The landscapes, ritual practices, vernacular architecture, and artistic expressions reflect the continuity of the Wixárika traditions. The serial property meets the conditions of authenticity based on the safeguarding of both its tangible (form, materials, location) and intangible (language, traditions, spirituality) characteristics. The cultural value of the property is truthfully expressed through the attributes present in its component parts.

Protection and management requirements

The legal protection of the property is provided by a number of state and federal government laws. The National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) is the federal agency responsible for the conservation of cultural heritage, and the National Commission for Protected Natural Areas (CONANP) has responsibilities for Nature Conservation Areas. The General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection (LGEEPA) establishes the framework for the creation and management of Natural Protected Areas, the protection of natural settings of archaeological and historic zones, and areas that are important for indigenous culture and identity. Land-use changes are regulated by the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente, PROFEPA).

The legal protection has been further strengthened by the recently adopted Federal Law for the Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples and

Communities (2023); the Decree amending, adding, and repealing various provisions of Article 2 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States Regarding Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples and Communities (2024); and the Decree recognizing, protecting, preserving, and safeguarding the sacred places and pilgrimage routes of the Wixárika, Náayeri, O'dam or Au'dam, and Mexikan Indigenous Peoples, and creating the Presidential Commission for its compliance (2023).

A Management Unit will be established to coordinate the management of the serial property and the implementation of the Integrated Management, Conservation and Safeguarding Plan (2024-2030), which has a biocultural approach. This plan establishes guidelines for protecting and managing the serial property and was developed in collaboration with the Wixárika communities, federal, state and local authorities, and the organisation Conservación Humana A.C, reflecting an inclusive and participatory approach. A protection and monitoring system is in place, managed by the Wixárika Regional Council (Consejo Regional Wixárika, CRW).

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

   a) Prohibiting mining activities in the component parts and buffer zones, and mitigating the effects of existing extractive mining activities within and around the component parts, buffer zones and wider settings,

   b) Strengthening regulations to protect the component parts and buffer zones from uncontrolled urban expansion,

   c) Establishing the Management Unit and Site Manager as a priority along with administrative measures and management mechanisms, to ensure the right of way or transit along the pilgrimage route, including both private and public lands,

   d) Developing site- and/or area-specific management plans for the component parts to complement the provisions of the Integrated Management, Conservation and Safeguarding Plan (2024-2030), enabling their particular conservation issues to be addressed,

   e) Developing a sustainable tourism strategy that promotes responsible and culturally appropriate tourism and generates economic benefits for the associated Indigenous communities,

   f) Continuing and further strengthening mechanisms for the participation of the Wixárika in decision-making processes and management of the component parts,

   g) Improving the documentation of the component parts (including detailed mapping and photographs), and collaborating with Wixárika communities to develop a detailed map of the network of the route, including primary, and secondary routes where necessary, and indicating associated tangible attributes, in order to improve the understanding of the connections between sacred sites and landscapes for the purposes of protection, effective coordinated management, risk identification, and interpretation,

   h) Developing a research and documentation plan in collaboration with Wixárika communities to deepen knowledge of the cultural and environmental aspects of the route, including archaeological research, a deeper understanding of socio-ecological connections, and the relationship between traditional agricultural practices and natural values (including agrobiodiversity), ensuring that the communities have access to this information as a tool in inter-generational cultural transmission,

   i) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for development proposals,

j) Developing effective monitoring mechanisms that are directly based on the identified values of the component parts of the route, including the creation of additional qualitative and quantitative indicators, and capacity building for communities and local organisations,

k) Providing updated maps and figures for the areas and the number of inhabitants for the overall property and the component parts in light of the addition of the twentieth component part (20DUR) in Durango.

C.5.2 Nominations deferred or referred back by previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee

Decision: 47 COM 8B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1,
2. Inscribes **The Archaeological Landscape of 17th Century Port Royal, Jamaica**, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (iv)** and **(vi)**;
3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

The town of Port Royal is situated on a spit of land (Palisadoes) at the mouth of Kingston Harbour in south-eastern Jamaica. In 1692, a severe earthquake devastated the town and submerged a large portion of it under water and sand. Today, the vestiges of the terrestrial and underwater elements of Port Royal are exceptional illustrations of an English urban settlement of the 17th century.

Its well-protected deep-water port allowed the town to quickly become one of the wealthiest and most significant port cities of the British Empire, and its most important regional and transatlantic trade hub in the Americas for goods – and for enslaved Africans. Surviving vestiges include the remains of six forts that guarded the town, some of which are now underwater, and the archaeological evidence of the ensemble of residential, religious, and administrative buildings of the 17th-century town.

Criterion (iv): The Archaeological Ensemble of 17th Century Port Royal is an exceptional illustration of an early English colonial settlement during the period of European expansion and rivalry, which is a significant stage in the history of the Americas. With its deep natural harbour and strategic location in the centre of the Spanish Main, Port Royal developed in just thirty-seven years from a colonial frontier settlement to a pivotal 17th-century port town, documented as the most important English settlement in the Western Hemisphere. The global network of trade that converged here is reflected in the rich volume of recovered artefacts from as far away as Asia and Europe.

Criterion (vi): The Archaeological Ensemble of 17th Century Port Royal exemplifies England's decisive role in the trafficking of enslaved Africans to the Americas. The fortifications and infrastructure are tangible evidence of the contribution of enslaved Africans to the rise, growth, and sustainability of Port Royal, as well as to the transfer of knowledge and skills. The 1692 earthquake caused the deaths of many people, making the property a grave site not only for the merchants and the wealthy, but also for the poor and enslaved.

Integrity

The integrity of the property is based on the terrestrial and underwater evidence of the 17th-century town of Port Royal. The archaeological ensemble contains all the attributes

necessary to convey the Outstanding Universal Value, including the entire town encircled by the six fortifications present at the time of the devastating earthquake in 1692, and its 17th-century urban plan. Although there are only a few standing structures from pre-earthquake Port Royal remaining today, due to numerous natural and anthropogenic disasters, new buildings have followed the intent and alignment of the 17th-century layout of the town, preserving the foundations of pre-1692 Port Royal. The underwater sections of the town are exceptionally well preserved under layers of sediments.

Authenticity

The property is in its original maritime location, and though its setting has evolved, it remains evocative of its past vocations. The forms, designs, materials, and substances of its urban plan, as well as the terrestrial and underwater archaeological evidence of its 17th-century past remain largely intact and legible. Fort Charles, for example, has undergone several restorations over time, but its materials and design can be considered largely intact. Underwater features are completely unchanged and have been preserved in situ; their authenticity is unquestionable. In terms of uses and functions, the property continues to play an important role in the maritime activities of the Kingston and Port Royal harbours.

Protection and management requirements

The property is protected under two national legislations: the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) Act of 1985, and the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act of 1991. Under the 1985 JNHT Act, the area was designated as Protected National Heritage in 1999, while Palisadoes and Port Royal were designated as Protected Area in 1998, under the 1991 NRCA Act. The latter is enforced through the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). The property and its buffer zone are also protected under the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UNESCO, 2001) since 9 August 2011.

With these national and international legislations, a collaborative approach is employed by the government agencies with legal jurisdictions in the protected area, the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) and the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). These agencies co-manage the protected area to ensure the effective management and monitoring of the property.

The Port Royal & the Palisadoes Management Plan 2022-2027 developed by the JNHT, as well as the Final Draft Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area Management Plan 2021-2031 prepared by the NEPA, collectively provide the necessary conservation, management and monitoring of the protected area. Local stakeholders and duty bearers are involved in the management and decision-making processes.

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

   a) Revising, updating, and approving the Zoning Plan for the Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area 2014-2019,

   b) Approving the draft Port Royal & Palisadoes Disaster Risk Management Plan 2022-2026,

   c) Identifying key monitoring indicators that help to describe more specifically the state of conservation of the property in quantitative terms and that can be used as baseline data for protection, conservation, and management,

   d) Ensuring that the inventory of terrestrial and submerged cultural resources related to the 1692 town has an adequate level of detail to support management objectives,

   e) Rehabilitating the 19th-century sea wall that protects the 17th-century streets of Port Royal from erosion caused by storm surges,

f) Organising the existing documentation of the property (historic documents, research documentation, etc.) in an accessible centrally held or systematically archived manner,

g) Defining clear objectives for future research activities in a detailed research plan, which will also help to coordinate the work of different institutions at the property,

h) Developing and implementing a conservation plan that employs locally trained specialists, thereby fostering local expertise in conservation,

i) Finalising the formal interpretative plan and the tourism management plan and, based on these, upgrading the information available to visitors at the property and in the museums,

j) Finalising the installation of the Port Royal Museum in order to give more visibility to the artefacts recovered from the property,

k) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for development proposals;

5. Decides that the name of the property be changed to "**The Archaeological Ensemble of 17th Century Port Royal**".

Decision: 47 COM 8B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Inscribes **The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá, Panama**, first phase of a two-phase serial nomination, on the World Heritage List on the basis of **criteria (ii)** and **(iv)**;

3. Adopts the following Statement of Outstanding Universal Value:

Brief synthesis

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

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

Criterion (ii): The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá, constructed as part of the process of colonisation of the Americas, played a significant role in the establishment of a global communication system that facilitated the exchange of goods between the Iberian Peninsula and the colonies of the Kingdom of Spain in South and North America, the archipelago of the Philippines and the Canary Islands. This process resulted in the interchange of ideas, skills, and traditions between different populations, including Indigenous Peoples, enslaved Africans and European colonisers. This process, which

was not a peaceful one, lasted over three centuries and was centred on the expansion of the hegemony of the Kingdom of Spain, which strongly influenced and marked the history and further development of the Americas.

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

Integrity

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

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

Authenticity

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

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

Protection and management requirements

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

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

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

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

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

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

   a) Developing a property-specific tourism plan and interpretation strategy that would be inclusive of diverse rightsholders and stakeholders' participation and relevant narratives,

   b) Enhancing and strengthening the role of residents, local communities, Indigenous Peoples and other rightsholders and stakeholders in the management system of the serial property,

   c) Operationalising the Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism adopted in February 2025 with central consideration to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,

   d) Continuing efforts to develop national capacity building for national officers, heritage practitioners, developers, and relevant stakeholders on the Heritage Impact Assessment procedure,

   e) Continuing the conservation works in all component parts including those proposed for Phase 2,

   f) Continuing research works for all component parts including those proposed for Phase 2,

   g) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of Operational Guidelines;

5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2026**, a report on the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 49th session;

6. Takes note that the **Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá**, which was previously inscribed on the World Heritage List, is now part of **The Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá**.

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

A. NATURAL PROPERTIES

A.1 AFRICA

Decision: 47 COM 8B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

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

A.2 EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 47 COM 8B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

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

A.3 LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Decision: 47 COM 8B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B2.Add,

2. Recalling Decisions **02 COM VIII.38, 18 COM XI, 19 COM VIIIA.4, 25 COM XB, 31 COM 8C.11, 34 COM 8C.3, 37 COM 8E** and **45 COM 7B.67** adopted at its 2nd (Washington, D.C, 1978), 18th (Phuket, 1994), 19th (Berlin, 1995), 25th (Helsinki, 2001), 31st (Christchurch, 2007), 34th (Brasília, 2010), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,

3. Does not approve the minor boundary modification of the **Galápagos Islands, Ecuador**;

4. Requests the State Party to re-submit this request as a significant boundary modification.

B. CULTURAL PROPERTIES

B.1 ARAB STATES

Decision: 47 COM 8B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Refers the examination of the minor boundary modification of the **Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to include in the buffer zone of the Jabal Umm Sinman component part the viewshed, based on visual perspectives from Al-Muhaffar Road leading to Jubbah, to maintain the co-visibility along the panoramic road and strengthen the protection of the visual integrity zone between the road and the property, once the relevant studies would have been completed;

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

   a) Adopting architectural adaptations to mitigate the visual impact of the abattoir, including the use of local materials and colours,

   b) Discontinuing the use of the abattoir and its associated facilities,

   c) Transforming the power poles present within the Jabal Umm Sinman component part, its buffer zone and along Al-Muhaffar road into an underground system,

   d) Finalising the management plan of the property and submitting it upon adoption, along with established studies such as viewshed analyses, to the World Heritage Centre.

B.2 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Decision: 47 COM 8B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana, India**;

3. Refers the examination of the minor boundary modification of the buffer zone of the **Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana, India**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to consider an extension of the buffer zone to encompass the wider context of the ancient irrigation system, including the canals and Lake Ramappa.

B.3 EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Decision: 47 COM 8B.39

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Decision: 47 COM 8B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Decision: 47 COM 8B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Decision: 47 COM 8B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

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

3. Recommends that the State Party establish a buffer zone in order to protect long-distance views and provide an additional layer of protection to the World Heritage property from potential visual impacts.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Decision: 47 COM 8B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the examination of the minor boundary modification of **Fortifications of Vauban, France,** back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
    a) Clearly setting out the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value and their spatial relationships and defining the protection objectives that the buffer zones are expected to satisfy,

b) Provide photographic and visual documentation of the major views from and towards each component part, as well as of the major affecting factors that the expansion of the buffer zones intends to address,

c) Revise the delineation of the buffer zones accordingly,

d) Prepare cartographic documentation that clearly illustrates the different layers of protection designations and measures, including those stemming from planning and other regulatory frameworks, that will ensure that the buffer zones effectively provide an added layer of protection to the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value for each component part,

e) Explain the functioning and nature of the legal arrangements, and indicate who is responsible for their implementation and control, whether or not the measures are in force and, if so, what are the steps required to obtain their approval.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **Palace and Park of Fontainebleau, France**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
   a) Continuing the participatory process for the development of the management plan of the property, finalising and approving it as soon as possible, and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre,
   b) Creating platforms and mechanisms for the effective and regular coordination among the relevant actors,
   c) Informing the World Heritage Centre of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of Operational Guidelines,
   d) Developing and implementing a Heritage Impact Assessment for any development proposals in the property, the buffer zone and/or wider setting that could potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Approves the minor boundary modification of **Arles, Roman and Romanesque Monuments, France**;
3. Recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:
   a) Ensuring that the revision of the Local Urban Plan (PLU) is adapted to take into account the World Heritage property and its buffer zone perimeter, or alternatively establishing a strategic document for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone, which would comply with the Heritage Code and inform the local urban planning authorities, in order to enhance the protection of the World Heritage

property and guarantee that legal protection, such as urban planning regulations, is effectively implemented,

b) Considering developing measures to ensure the effective preservation of distant views connecting the property with its natural or urban landscape, beyond the Alpilles Landscape Directive, to preserve the skyline of the property as well as, for instance, its connection to the Montmajour Abbey,

c) Monitoring regularly the health of the trees growing near the Alyscamps Necropolis, which currently form a fragile barrier to block the view on the Luma Arles Tower,

d) Developing and implementing a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment, as prescribed in the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, for any development proposals in the property, its buffer zone and/or wider setting to avoid any potential negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,

e) Informing the World Heritage Centre well in advance of the intention to undertake or authorise all major projects which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Approves the minor boundary modification of the **Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia, Italy.**

Decision: 47 COM 8B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Does not approve the minor boundary modification of the **Via Appia. Regina Viarum, Italy**.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.49

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Refers the examination of the minor boundary modification of the **Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato, Italy**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:

   a) Further document the entirety of the viewshed, views and panoramic vistas that can be enjoyed from the proposed enlarged buffer zone but also from the property towards the buffer zone, in order to clarify what the revised buffer zone aims to protect,

b) Clarify and explain in more detail what landscape protection designations stemming from national legal framework cover the proposed expanded buffer zone,

c) Provide maps of the landscape protection designations and of the Regional Landscape Plan of Piedmont (PPR) zoning at an appropriate scale complemented by detailed descriptions of the protection provisions and compliance mechanisms,

d) Clarify through which landscape protection designations and mechanisms the existing buffer zone provides an added layer of protection to the property and how legal protection is afforded to the property at the national level;

3. Recommends that the State Party develop and implement a Heritage Impact Assessment mechanism, to be integrated into the existing procedures, to ensure that impacts from any development proposals in the property, the buffer zones and/or wider setting that could potentially affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, are properly assessed.

Decision: 47 COM 8B.50

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,

2. Refers the examination of the minor boundary modification of **The Historic Centre of Odesa, Ukraine**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:

   a) Continue working on defining the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value,

   b) Undertake studies to define the interconnections between the city, the port and the sea to enable an understanding of visual and functional linkages and to identify the key visual points and axes that link the Historic Centre to its immediate and wider setting,

   c) Give consideration to where development areas may be located in order to avoid adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property,

   d) On the basis of these studies, extend the boundaries of the proposed buffer zone to the north, west and south of the Historic Centre to allow it to support key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, and define view corridors that also need protection to maintain key interlinkages between the Historic Centre and its immediate and wider setting,

   e) Define precisely how the buffer zone will be managed to support the World Heritage property, in relation to its protection and planning procedures,

   f) Ensure that the proposed boundaries can be clearly identified on the ground.

B.4 LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Decision: 47 COM 8B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

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

Decision: 47 COM 8B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8B.Add and WHC/25/47.COM/INF.8B1.Add,
2. Refers the examination of the minor boundary modification of the **Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo, Panama**, back to the State Party in order to allow it to:
    a) Clarify the potential impact of Resolution DM-0106-2024 of the Ministry of Environment on the proposed buffer zone for the San Lorenzo Castle component part (09), and, eventually, review the proposed boundaries in order to ensure the adequate protection of the natural setting of this component part, especially the mouth of Chagres River,
    b) Review the proposed boundaries of the buffer zones of the component parts located in the Portobelo area in order to ensure that they are of adequate size and adapted to the specific features of the area, and consider the possibility of adopting the area of the “Wider Setting: Historic Monumental Complex of Portobelo”, established by national Law 91 of 1976, as a single buffer zone that encompasses all the component parts located in this area and their setting;
3. Recommends that the State Party provide updated information on the progress made in relation to the development of the integral management plan for the serial property to the World Heritage Committee.

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

Decision: 47 COM 8B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

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

8C. UPDATE OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

Decision: 47 COM 8C.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC/25/47.COM/7A, WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add, WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.3, WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.4 and WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5),
2. Decides to **retain** the following 53 properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
    - Afghanistan, Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley
    - Afghanistan, Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam

- Austria, Historic Centre of Vienna
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of), City of Potosí
- Central African Republic, Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park
- Côte d'Ivoire / Guinea, Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Garamba National Park
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kahuzi-Biega National Park
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Okapi Wildlife Reserve
- Democratic Republic of the Congo, Virunga National Park
- Honduras, Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve
- Indonesia, Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra
- Iraq, Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat)
- Iraq, Hatra
- Iraq, Samarra Archaeological City
- Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)
- Kenya, Lake Turkana National Parks
- Lebanon, Rachid Karami International Fair-Tripoli
- Libya, Archaeological Site of Cyrene
- Libya, Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna
- Libya, Archaeological Site of Sabratha
- Libya, Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus
- Mali, Old Towns of Djenné
- Mali, Timbuktu
- Mali, Tomb of Askia
- Mexico, Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California
- Micronesia (Federated States of), Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia
- Niger, Aïr and Ténéré Natural Reserves
- Panama, Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo
- Peru, Chan Chan Archaelogical Zone
- Romania, Roșia Montană Mining Landscape
- Serbia, Medieval Monuments in Kosovo
- Solomon Islands, East Rennell
- State of Palestine, Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town
- State of Palestine, Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir
- State of Palestine, Saint Hilarion Monastery/ Tell Umm Amer
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Aleppo

- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Bosra
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient City of Damascus
- Syrian Arab Republic, Ancient Villages of Northern Syria
- Syrian Arab Republic, Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din
- Syrian Arab Republic, Site of Palmyra
- Ukraine, Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra
- Ukraine, L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre
- Ukraine, The Historic Centre of Odesa
- United Republic of Tanzania, Selous Game Reserve
- United States of America, Everglades National Park
- Uzbekistan, Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Coro and its Port
- Yemen, Historic Town of Zabid
- Yemen, Landmarks of the Ancient Kingdom of Saba, Marib
- Yemen, Old City of Sana'a
- Yemen, Old Walled City of Shibam.

Decision: 47 COM 8C.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the state of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (WHC/25/47.COM/7A, WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add, WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.2, WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.3, WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.4 and WHC/25/47.COM/7A.Add.5),
2. Decides to **remove** the following properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger:
    - Egypt, Abu Mena (Decision **47 COM 7A.34)**
    - Libya, Old Town of Ghadamès (Decision **47 COM 7A.43)**
    - Madagascar, Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Decision **47 COM 7A.14)**.

8D. CLARIFICATIONS OF PROPERTY BOUNDARIES AND AREAS BY STATES PARTIES

Decision: 47 COM 8D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/8D,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 8D**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024),

3. Also recalling that out of the 557 World Heritage properties subject to clarification, 28% are still to be submitted by the concerned States Parties;

4. Acknowledges the excellent work accomplished by States Parties in the clarification of the boundaries of their World Heritage properties and commends them for their efforts to improve the credibility of the World Heritage List;

5. Recalls that the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are not able to examine proposals for minor or significant modifications to boundaries of World Heritage properties whenever the delimitations of such properties as inscribed remain unclear;

6. Takes note of the clarifications of boundaries and areas provided by States Parties for the following properties, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC/25/47.COM/8D:

ARAB STATES

- Iraq, Hatra

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- Japan, Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

- Andorra, Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley
- Greece, Archaeological Site of Mystras
- Hungary, Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrássy Avenue
- Italy, City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto
- Italy, Crespi d'Adda
- Italy, Early Christian Monuments of Ravenna
- Italy, Ferrara, City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta
- Italy, Genoa: Le Strade Nuove and the system of the Palazzi dei Rolli
- Italy, Val d'Orcia
- Italy, Vineyard Landscape of Piedmont: Langhe-Roero and Monferrato
- Spain, Garajonay National Park
- Spain, La Lonja de la Seda de Valencia
- Spain, Old Town of Ávila with its Extra-Muros Churches
- Spain, Palau de la Música Catalana and Hospital de Sant Pau, Barcelona
- Spain, Renaissance Monumental Ensembles of Úbeda and Baeza
- Spain, San Millán Yuso and Suso Monasteries
- Spain, Teide National Park
- Spain, Vizcaya Bridge
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Blaenavon Industrial Landscape
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, and St Martin's Church
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd

- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, St Kilda
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The Forth Bridge
- United States of America, Grand Canyon National Park
- United States of America, Olympic National Park
- United States of America, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- United States of America, Yosemite National Park
- United States of America, Taos Pueblo;

7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue the identification and collection of geographic and cartographic information of World Heritage properties in nominations where the required information is not available or not adequate;
8. Also requests the States Parties which have not yet answered the questions raised in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory, to provide all clarifications and documentation as soon as possible, and by **1 December 2025**, for their subsequent examination, if the technical requirements are met, at its 48th session;
9. Noting that the budget allocated to this activity may not be sufficient to cover the costs foreseen, invites States Parties to contribute financially to this end.

8E. ADOPTION OF RETROSPECTIVE STATEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

Decision: 47 COM 8E

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/8E and WHC/25/47.COM/8E.Add,
2. Adopts the retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, as presented in the Annex of Documents WHC/25/47.COM/8E and WHC/25/47.COM/8E.Add, for the following World Heritage properties:

   ARAB STATES

   - State of Palestine, Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town

   EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

   - France, Arles, Roman and Romanesque Monuments;
3. In compliance with Paragraph 155 of the Operational Guidelines, also adopts the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for which the Protection and management requirements section has been updated, as presented in the Annex of Document WHC/25/47.COM/8E, for the following World Heritage properties:

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

- Czechia, Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč
- Sweden, Grimeton Radio Station, Varberg;

4. Encourages States Parties to finalize the remaining retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

5. Notes that retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger will be reviewed in priority by the Advisory Bodies;

6. Requests the World Heritage Centre to upload the two language versions of the above-mentioned Statements of Outstanding Universal Value on its website.

9. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR A REPRESENTATIVE, BALANCED AND CREDIBLE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

9A. UPSTREAM PROCESS

Decision: 47 COM 9A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/9A,
2. Recalling Decision **46 COM 9A**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024), and its previous decisions concerning the Upstream Process,
3. Also recalling that upstream support should take place at an early stage, preferably at the moment of preparation or revision of States Parties' Tentative Lists,
4. Takes note of the progress made regarding the Upstream Process requests received from 2018 to 2024;
5. Welcomes the submission of the Upstream Process requests received by the 31 March 2025 deadline, and the efforts by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to process all requests received in the timeliest manner possible within the resources available;
6. Thanks the State Party of France for its financial support to the implementation of the Upstream Process, and invites States Parties to contribute extrabudgetary resources for the overall coordination and capacity building support of the Upstream Process;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to present a progress report on the support offered to Upstream Process requests received, for consideration at its 48th session.

10. GENERAL REFLECTION ON PERIODIC REPORTING

Decision: 47 COM 10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/10,
2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 10A**, **42 COM 10A**, **43 COM 10B**, **44 COM 10D**, **45 COM 10E** and **46 COM 10C**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021), extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023), and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions,
3. Also recalling the MONDIACULT 2022 Declaration, the 2024 IOS Evaluation of UNESCO's Periodic Reporting on the Culture Sector's Conventions and Recommendations, and the Decision 219 EX/13 of the Executive Board of UNESCO;
4. Commends the implementation of the Reflection Period by the Secretariat;

5. Welcomes the comprehensive report based on the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, and the proposals for improving process, relevance, analysis, use of data, and revised format of the Questionnaire for the Fourth Cycle;

6. Also welcomes the Feasibility Study considering the practical modalities of enhancing the Periodic Reporting exercise as well as the review of the analytical framework and the monitoring indicators for the Periodic Reporting;

7. Decides to launch the Fourth Cycle of Periodic Reporting in July 2026, in view of the need to allow sufficient time for appropriate preparation by the Secretariat and by the States Parties, and to follow the recommended proposal (Option 2) as presented in Document WHC/25/47.COM/10;

8. Approves the methodology and use of information of the Culture Monitoring Platform to facilitate the reporting by the States Parties and analysis by the Secretariat;

9. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present, for examination by the World Heritage Committee, a revised version of Chapter V of the Operational Guidelines (Periodic Reporting on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention) and Annex 7 (Format for the Periodic Reporting of the application of the World Heritage Convention), at its 48th session, based on the results of the Reflection Period;

10. Encourages the active engagement of the States Parties in the following reporting cycles, and also decides, that, in view of the current financial and human resources constraints of the World Heritage Centre, its role should consist of ensuring a holistic approach across regions, by providing overall coordination, guidance tools and analysis, as well as facilitating a State Party-driven approach, and invites the States Parties to contribute extrabudgetary resources for this purpose, and further decides, in case the resources are insufficient to ensure continuity, to supplement the funding of an extra-budgetary position from the Periodic Reporting budget line in the World Heritage Fund.

11. REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY THE EXTENDED 45TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 47 COM 11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/11,

2. Recalling Decisions **45 COM 11** and **46 COM 11**, adopted at its extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) and 46th (New Delhi, 2024) sessions respectively,

3. Also recalling that the payment of assessed compulsory and voluntary contributions is, as per Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention, an obligation incumbent on all States Parties which have ratified the Convention and calling upon those States Parties, which have not yet paid their assessed contributions, including voluntary contributions in accordance with Article 16.2 of the Convention, to ensure that their contributions are paid as soon as possible,

4. Requests the World Heritage Centre with the support of other relevant departments of UNESCO, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to explore and develop coordinated actions on World Heritage and related sectors (e.g. biodiversity), with a particular focus on mobilizing additional dedicated funding (e.g. GEF-funding and other Natural Facility-

funding) to support the inscription of natural and mixed World Heritage proposals in line with target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework and with Decision **44 COM 7.2**;

5. Invites the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to explore together means and innovative solutions to reinforce the resources put at their disposal for their activities, as well as the interaction with States Parties, and to present proposals at its 48th session;

6. Calls upon the World Heritage Centre to explore possible options for utilizing the recognition of World Heritage designation for financial resource mobilization for conservation and education purposes, in conformity with the provisions set out in the Paragraphs 258 to 279 of the Operational Guidelines concerning the use of the World Heritage emblem, and to present its recommendations at its 48th session;

7. Recognising the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples[1] when navigating the World Heritage system, also requests that the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and States Parties work together with Indigenous Peoples to identify opportunities to better reflect their heritage values, including reflecting the narratives of Indigenous Peoples in the statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and enhance their participation under the Convention and present a proposal to its 48th session;

8. Noting the removal of the one-year waiting period between the inclusion of a site in the Tentative List and the submission of a request for Preliminary Assessment for the same site, in view of the extended timelines of the Preliminary Assessment process, further requests the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to explore the possibility to reduce the time required by the Advisory Bodies to carry out Preliminary Assessments;

9. Requests furthermore the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, to explore the possibility of developing guidelines for the Preliminary Assessment mechanism, and to submit to the World Heritage Committee in 2031 an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Preliminary Assessment, including financial implications, to allow for necessary adjustments and improvements and to report to the World Heritage Committee on the progress at its 48th session;

10. Calls on the States Parties to explore possibilities for activities including twinning and partnerships, and cooperation with educational and heritage training institutions, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, and Category 2 Centres, to facilitate knowledge sharing and resource mobilization for nominations, conservation, and management, and for funding and sustainability of heritage institutions, and requests moreover the World Heritage Centre to provide and regularly update a section on the website with good examples;

11. With a view to expanding the network of natural and mixed sites protected at the multilateral level and to achieve better representation of natural and mixed properties in the World Heritage List, also requests:

    a) the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in line with the Bern Process and taking into account the objectives of the Global Biodiversity Framework, to reinforce the dialogue with the Secretariat of other biodiversity-related Conventions, as well as with the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences of UNESCO, in order to explore synergies in terms of nominations, management and reports, between World Heritage properties, Biosphere reserves, Global Geoparks and Ramsar sites, fully respecting the criteria, specificities and Rules of Procedures of each programme and Convention,

[1] The term “Indigenous Peoples” is used in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Its use is consistent with UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples and the relevant Paragraphs of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (Paragraphs 12, 14bis, 40, 64, 111, 117, 119, 123, 211, 214bis, and 215).

b) that a report be submitted by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on the outcome of such dialogue at its 48th session;

12. Welcomes the proposals presented in December 2024 by IUCN and ICOMOS to update the 2004 Gap Analysis and also invites the World Heritage Centre and States Parties to explore options, including through dialogue with other biodiversity-related Conventions, to support carrying out this update;

13. Further requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop mechanisms to support nominations of natural or mixed sites identified in gap studies, and report on the outcome at its 48th session;

14. Emphasizing the continued relevance and importance of the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List, and further recalling Paragraph 59 of the Operational Guidelines already adopted in 1999, encourages States Parties planning to submit three complete nominations of categories which are not under-represented for evaluation in three consecutive cycles, to consider strategically slowing down the submission of new nominations and actively contribute to reducing the gap on the World Heritage List;

15. Thanks the Government of Kenya and the President of the Republic of Kenya for welcoming and co-organizing with UNESCO with the support of the African World Heritage Fund, the "International Conference on Cultural Heritage in Africa: A Dialogue on the Concept of Authenticity", held in Nairobi, Kenya from 6 to 9 May 2025, and also thanks the States Parties of France and Japan for their financial support of the Conference;

16. Welcomes the adoption of the "Nairobi Outcome on Heritage and Authenticity" document and underlines the relevance of its recommendations, including elements to inform future discussions and decisions by the Committee, States Parties and the Advisory Bodies, on the understanding and application of authenticity in the African context, and in similar contexts globally, and encourages other regions to take similar initiatives;

17. Decides to submit the recommendations adopted by the 46th and 47th sessions of the World Heritage Committee to the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention at its 25th session for information;

18. Further thanks the States Parties of France, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Slovenia, and Switzerland for their financial support to the organisation of the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group;

19. Also calls on States Parties to support the above-mentioned activities through extrabudgetary funding.

12. EXAMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

Decision: 47 COM 12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/12,

2. Having noted the insufficient funding available under Preparatory Assistance to satisfy the request from South Africa recommended for approval by the panel, and the amount left under the Conservation & Management Assistance category, authorizes the transfer

of US$ 17,380 from the Conservation & Management Assistance budget to the Preparatory Assistance budget;

3. Encourages States Parties considering preparation of International Assistance requests to contact the World Heritage Centre for advice either on the topic and/or on the technicalities of their International Assistance requests well ahead the annual deadline of 31 October.

13. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR THE BIENNIUM 2024-2025, BUDGET PROPOSAL OF THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND FOR THE BIENNIUM 2026-2027 AND FOLLOW-UP TO DECISION 46 COM 13

Decision: 47 COM 13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/13,

Part One: Report on the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2024-2025

2. Takes note of the Financial Report for the biennium 2024-2025, which ended on 31 December 2024, as presented in Annexes I and II of document WHC/25/47.COM/13;

3. Recalls that the payment of assessed compulsory and voluntary contributions is, as per Article 16 of the World Heritage Convention, an obligation incumbent on all States Parties which have ratified the Convention and calls upon all States Parties which have not yet paid the totality of their assessed contributions, including voluntary contributions in accordance with Article 16.2 of the Convention, to ensure that their contributions are paid as soon as possible;

4. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report in a separate table the expected voluntary contributions received in the sub-account for the evaluation of nominations, also providing in its financial report an overview of complete nominations of the current and previous nomination cycle involving States Parties that meet the criteria set out in Paragraph 168bis of the Operational Guidelines;

5. Thanks those States Parties which have already made supplementary voluntary contributions in recent years and also calls upon all other States Parties to consider making supplementary voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund in accordance with the Roadmap for the Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund, with the target of 10 or more States Parties doubling their annual contributions;

6. Having noted the need to increase the funds allocated to ICOMOS and IUCN for 2025 to essentially cover the evaluation of complete nominations by 1 February 2025, decides to approve an additional amount of US$ 611,435 for ICOMOS and US$ 46,076 for IUCN from the operating reserve, based on the budgets proposed in Annex IV of Document WHC/25/47.COM/13, bringing the total World Heritage Fund budget for 2024-2025 to US$ 6,555,587;

7. Having noted the status of the sub-account dedicated to the evaluation of nominations as of 31 March 2025, authorizes the use of the operating reserve in excess of US$ 200,000 to meet any shortfall in funding for the 2025-2026 preliminary assessment cycle commencing in October 2025;

Part Two: Follow-up to Decision 46 COM 13

8. Recalling its Decision **46 COM 13** on the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund,

9. Recalls that sustainability of the World Heritage Fund and the overall funding of World Heritage are strategic issues and a shared responsibility which concern all States Parties and relevant partners, affecting the overall credibility of the World Heritage Convention, not least the effectiveness and efficiency of World Heritage protection;

10. Recalling its Decision **42 COM 14**, paragraph 17, reiterates its invitation to all States Parties to support fund-raising initiatives dedicated to the implementation of the Convention;

11. Takes note of the progress report on the implementation of the 3 medium-term actions set out in the "Roadmap for the Sustainability of the World Heritage Fund" adopted in 2017;

Part Three: Preparation of the budget for the biennium 2026-2027

12. Approves the budget of the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2026-2027 at the level of US$ 7,306,842 as well as its corresponding distribution as indicated in Annex IX of document WHC/25/47.COM/13.Add, approves the principle of a budgetary extension in 2027 for advisory services on the basis of the actual quantities of work to be carried out, with no change in the unit costs, and decides to maintain the Emergency Reserve Fund and the Provision for Exchange Rate Fluctuation at the level of US$ 400,000 each;

13. Commends the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the new presentation of their budgets for 2026-2027 and decides that this format will henceforth be used for future budget proposals in relation to the Advisory Services;

14. Requests that this presentation be used to show costs by activity on actual expenditure incurred in previous biennia, going back at least to 2018, and to submit these results to it at its 48th session;

15. Decides that contracts for the implementation of the Preliminary Assessment will be established annually with the Advisory Bodies at a maximum cost of US$ 15,556 per file for 30 to 35 files and at a maximum cost of US$ 21,161 per file below 30 files and also decides to complement, if necessary, the financing needs related to the Preliminary Assessment, including those of the World Heritage Centre, with funds from the operating reserve, thereby increasing the level of the approved 2026-2027 World Heritage Fund budget accordingly within the overall limit of US$ 200,000 maximum for the biennium;

16. Recalling Paragraph 168bis of the Operational Guidelines, thanks those states Parties which have already made voluntary contributions to the sub-account for evaluation of nominations and calls on other States Parties to consider making such voluntary contributions;

17. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the use of sub-account dedicated to the evaluation of nominations and on the use of the operating reserve at its 48th session;

Part Four: sustainability and priorities of the functioning of the World Heritage Convention

18. Noting with great concern that the sustainable financing of essential tasks and responsibilities related to the implementation of the Convention has been under pressure for years, and in some areas has been significantly inadequate;

19. Also noting that despite repeated attempts to mobilize additional resources, no sustainable solutions have been found;

20. Requests the World Heritage Centre to include an item on the agenda of the 25th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention on the

sustainability and priorities of the functioning of the Convention, to reflect on challenges and possible ways forward.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

No Decision

15. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND RAPPORTEUR OF THE 48TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 47 COM 15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Decides that its 48th session will take place in **Busan (Republic of Korea)**, from **19 to 29 July 2026**;
2. Recalls that the hosting of a World Heritage Committee session by a Committee member is subject to the host country signing a host country agreement in conformity with UNESCO's rules and regulations and that host country agreements for category II meetings must be signed eight months in advance of the meeting;
3. Also recalls that, pursuant to Rule 44.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, arrangements by the host country to provide interpretation in another language than the working language of the Committee (English and French), or another official working language recognized by the United Nations, should be in compliance with UNESCO's rules, regulations and procedures;
4. Recalling its Decision **46 COM 15**, adopted at its 46th session (New Delhi, 2024), which elected its Bureau with a mandate until the end of its 47th session,
5. Decides to elect, in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee, its Bureau with the following composition:

   Türkiye,
   Ukraine,
   Jamaica,
   Senegal, and
   Lebanon

   as Vice-Chairpersons of the World Heritage Committee, whose mandates will begin at the end of the 47th session of the Committee (UNESCO, 2025) until the end of the 48th session of the Committee,
6. Also decides to extend the mandate of the following members of the current Bureau:
   a) Chairperson: **Prof. Nikolay Nenov (Bulgaria)** until its 20th extraordinary session,
   b) Rapporteur: **Ms. Joelle Bucyana (Rwanda)** until its 20th extraordinary session;
7. Decides to hold its 20th extraordinary session in November 2025 at UNESCO Headquarters, in the margin of the 25th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, to finalize the election of the Bureau of the 48th session, with a mandate until the end of the 48th session of the Committee;

8. Decides that the Bureau of the 49th session will be elected at the end of the 48th session of the Committee in accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the World Heritage Committee.

16. PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 48TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Decision: 47 COM 16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/25/47.COM/16,
2. Adopts the following provisional Agenda:

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE 48TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

OPENING SESSION

1. Opening session
2. Admission of Observers
3. Adoption of the Agenda and the Timetable
   - 3A. Adoption of the Agenda
   - 3B. Adoption of the Timetable

REPORTS

4. Report of the Rapporteur of the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO Headquarters, 2025)
5. Reports of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies
   - 5A. Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's decisions
   - 5B. Reports of the Advisory Bodies
   - 5C. Progress report on the implementation of the Strategy for World Heritage in Africa
   - 5D. Progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage-related activities for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)
6. Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and Progress report on the World Heritage-related category 2 centres
   - 6A. World Heritage-related Capacity-Building activities and Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy
   - 6B. Progress report on the activities concerning the implementation of the World Heritage Convention by the World Heritage-related category 2 centers
   - 6C. Report on the 2025 Nairobi Conference and follow-up on the implementation of the Nairobi Outcome Document

EXAMINATION OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION

7. State of conservation of World Heritage properties

    7A. State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

    7B. State of conservation of World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST AND OF THE LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER

8. Nomination process

    8A. Tentative Lists submitted by States Parties as of 15 April 2026

    8B. Nominations to the World Heritage List

    8C. Update of the World Heritage List and of the List of World Heritage in Danger

    8D. Clarifications of property boundaries and areas by States Parties

    8E. Adoption of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

PERIODIC REPORTS

9. Periodic reporting

    9A. Follow-up to the general reflection on Periodic Reporting and launching of the fourth cycle of Periodic Reporting

    9B. Status of implementation of the Framework Action Plan for the Asia and the Pacific, and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions

WORKING METHODS AND TOOLS

10. Revised version of Chapter V and Annex 7 of the Operational Guidelines

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

11. International Assistance

12. Presentation of the final accounts of the World Heritage Fund for the biennium 2024-2025, Report on the execution of the budget for the biennium 2026-2027, Follow-up to Decision **47 COM 13**

CLOSING SESSION

13. Other business

14. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur of the 49th session of the World Heritage Committee

15. Provisional Agenda of the 49th session of the World Heritage Committee

16. Adoption of Decisions

17. Closing session

17. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS

No Decision

18. CLOSING SESSION

No Decision