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CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-ninth Session

Durban, South Africa
10-17 July 2005

**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: Examination of the state of conservation of World
Heritage properties**

7B. State of conservation reports of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

SUMMARY

This document contains additional/revised information on the state of conservation of following properties inscribed on the World Heritage List:

PART A: State of conservation reports for adoption requiring discussion by the Committee;
29. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1 bis)
50. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (707ter)

PART B: State of conservation reports for adoption requiring no discussion by the
Committee;
101. Historic Centre of Český Krumlov (Czech Republic) (ID 617)

Decision required:

The Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2005/>

C. Reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List

NATURAL HERITAGE

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PART A: STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

51. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1 bis)

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.51.Rev

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined* Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Add**,
2. *Recalling* its Decision **28 COM 15B.31** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. *Notes* with concern the on-going events in Galapagos and their potentially negative impact on the integrity of the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve;
4. *Requests* the State Party to ensure the full application of the provisions of the Special Law for Galapagos of its attendant regulations, which set the legal framework under which all activities in Galapagos take place;
5. *Regrets* that the State Party did not submit a report for the examination of the property as requested by the Committee;
6. *Encourages* the State Party to implement all necessary measures that would re-establish the Galapagos National Park Service's credibility and authority in carrying out its statutory mandate;
7. *Also requests* the State Party to invite an UNESCO/IUCN mission to the property to examine its state of conservation and in particular to advise on whether conditions warrant for inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. *Further requests* the State Party to submit a report on the application of the Special Law for Galapagos, with an emphasis on migratory control and sports fishing by 1

February 2006, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

9. *Invites* the Director General of UNESCO to launch, in cooperation with the State Party, a high level initiative, with the participation of other interested UN bodies and donors, and with the objective of developing a practical, consensus-based long term "vision" for Galapagos focusing on conservation and sustainable development.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

ASIA AND PACIFIC

PART A: STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

50. Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (707ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List :
1994; 2000; 2001

Criteria : C (i) (iv) (vi)

Previous Committee Decisions :

27 COM 7B.45
28 COM 15B.55

International Assistance :

None.

Previous monitoring missions :

March 2001, ICOMOS ; 20-25 April 2003, UNESCO Expert / ICOMOS ; 4-7 May 2005, UNESCO / ICOMOS.

Major threat(s) identified in previous report(s) :

Uncontrolled urban development and expansion of tourism-related facilities in and adjacent to the boundary of the property ; Negative impact of the rehabilitation projects on the protection of the traditional urban tissue of the historic centre.

Current conservation issues :

Following Decision **28 COM 15B.55** of the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) and at the invitation of the Government of China, a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive

Monitoring Mission was undertaken to the property from 4 to 7 May 2005.

The World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS monitoring mission noted that:

- (i) Generally speaking, development on a large scale in the historic city of Lhasa had already started when the ICOMOS Mission was carried out in 2003. Although the current mission team observed the extensive spreading of the urban development in Lhasa city, developments along the major streets did not appear to affect significantly the overall urban landscape or atmosphere of the town, keeping in line with the scale of the surrounding structures.
- (ii) Weakness in coordinating activities in the past had led to inappropriate constructions in or adjacent to the heritage zones. Because the overall development pressure in Lhasa is so strong, close cooperation amongst the different government agencies responsible for heritage protection and development planning is crucial for better protection of the property. According to the Chinese authorities, however, due to the current administrative arrangements between the cultural heritage and religious institutions, the establishment of an independent management and development agency (recommendation by the Committee), which could be responsible for the management of Old Lhasa and the World Heritage properties, would not be appropriate for the time being. The authorities stated that action has been taken to solve such problems and that a coordination system for the clearance of building permits by the Administration of Cultural Heritage of Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) has been established. The mission team recommended that a Steering Committee be established at the TAR level, with regular meetings to review the overall management of the whole Lhasa city and the day-to-day management of each of the World Heritage sites of the property, as appropriate.
- (iii) Most of the conservation works in the three World Heritage sites in Lhasa are currently scheduled to terminate, at least the first phase, before the end of July 2005, so that the authorities can celebrate in September 2005 the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Tibet Autonomous Region. In order to meet this deadline, a large budget was allocated for restoration works at many sites, particularly at Norbulingka. While these efforts should be commended, such hasty work may cause some negative effect on the property. More studies and analysis would need to be carried out before conducting restoration interventions.

- (iv) The mission was informed that a Master Plan for the development of the southern and eastern parts of Lhasa city had been prepared and was awaiting official approval. The new Master Plan should be implemented as soon as approved, in order to ease the development pressure on the city centre. However, the mission did not receive a copy of the Conservation Plan for 1999-2015, as requested by the Committee. This is supposed to be provided by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China (SACH) to the World Heritage Centre shortly. It was also confirmed that the Plan is still subject to further amendment by the Chinese authorities.

The mission noted with satisfaction that the immediate environment and setting of the Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and Norbulingka are well protected at present by the existing regulations. The responsible authorities were encouraged to give careful consideration to a possible reappraisal of the Overall Lhasa City Development Plan, as well as to the Conservation Plan 1999-2015. This would guarantee that the conservation of the World Heritage property be integrated in the overall planning process.

- (v) In view of the rapid change in the character of Lhasa city, the TAR has taken action to protect all remaining historic traditional buildings in Lhasa. Inventories of such buildings and households were established by the Lhasa Municipal Bureau of Cultural Heritage and some of them proclaimed cultural relics for protection at the TAR level.
- (vi) Concerning the World Heritage boundaries of the property:
 - a) There have been some uncertainties regarding the perimeters of core and buffer zones of the Potala Palace since 1994. The protective buffer zones of the Potala Palace were different in the World Heritage extension nomination files for the Jokhang Temple (1999), Norbulingka (2000) and the National Periodic Report (2003). The mission was able to assert that the boundary delineated in the original nomination dossier of 1993, still stands as approved by the Committee at its 18th session in December 1994.
 - b) The core area of the Jokhang Temple World Heritage site should include not only the Jokhang Temple compound but also Barkhor Street, while the buffer zone should be extended to the whole circle of

Lingkhör Kora. The new boundaries of the buffer zone could be therefore demarcated as follows: East: Lingkhör East Road; South: Jiangsu Road; West: Duosenge North Rd and South Road; North: Lingkhör Beilu, amounting to a total area of 1.3 square kilometers of the historic centre.

- c) With regard to Norbulingka, the western and southern sides of the core zone are being rapidly redeveloped. Since the size of these areas is considerable, height control should be enforced to protect the green landscape of the property.
- d) The mission recommended that the overall zoning delineation for the three World Heritage sites in Lhasa be drawn up on a single map so as to avoid any possible misunderstanding about the boundary of each site of the property. Furthermore, since the development pressure in the historic centre of Lhasa is increasing, an extension of the buffer zone for the three sites should be seriously considered in order to protect the traditional urban fabric, while taking into consideration the heritage values of the surrounding landscape and environment.

(vii) Regarding the conservation and rehabilitation of historic traditional buildings, the mission was able to visit all the on-going restoration works being carried out at the Potala Palace, the Shöl Area, Potala Palace Square, Chapori Hill and Norbulingka.

In the Shöl Area, which is composed of a number of buildings that historically related to the Potala Palace, many incompatible additions and alterations have taken place over the past four decades. This area, which was occupied by private institutions and owners, was taken over by the Management Office of Potala Palace in 2002 under a special Conservation and Improvement Project, which provided alternative accommodation for inhabitants. Plans have been made to convert the Shöl Area into an Exhibition Complex of Tibetan Folk Arts and accommodate only those activities which are compatible with the functioning of the Potala Palace. This seems to be in line with the recommendations made in the 2003 ICOMOS Mission Report.

The development of the Potala Palace Square, which is part of the buffer zone, has been integrated into the Lhasa City Development Plan and provides an area for relaxation and enjoyment for the general public. The Square is

undergoing an improvement project, worth 140 million RMB (US\$16.9 million). 142 households and nine different institutions, which were built in the 1970s and 1980s next to the Square, have been relocated to make more space for the new Potala Palace Square, enlarged to 15.5 hectares. The mission team thought that the design of the Square blended with its surroundings.

(viii) With regard to the Committee's concern about the demolition of traditional historic buildings took place within the protective buffer zone of the Barkhor Historic Area around the Jokhang Temple, the mission was informed that renovation/restoration projects in Barkhor were carried out following a careful scientific approach, including:

- the restoration of highly important traditional architectural examples using traditional Tibetan building techniques and materials;
- the renovation of ordinary residential Tibetan houses by the retention of their external facades and the upgrading of their interiors to meet the needs of the contemporary lifestyles;
- the demolition of modern buildings dating from the 1970's onwards which were not harmonious with either the surrounding traditional urban setting or subsequent new constructions of Tibetan-style houses which blend into the historic urban tissue of Lhasa;
- the improvement of fire-prevention in the Jokhang Temple Monastery by establishing a semi underground candle-burning chamber in front of the Temple. Meanwhile, a fire protection passage encircling the Temple has been created.

At present, there seem to be very few immediate threats to the Jokhang Temple. Conservation works for the structure seem to be quite authentic and most of the candle lights have been removed from the traditional wooden buildings to the semi-underground chamber, the appearance of which is quite compatible with the Temple.

With regard to the Barkhor Historic Area, piped water and sewage mains have been installed and the roads covered with clean stones, creating more favorable conditions around the Temple. Specific building height control around the Barkhor Area has been established and should be strictly adhered to. The height of the Jokhang Temple, with its rooftop view overlooking the

city and the Potala Palace, is the same as that of ordinary buildings in the area. As the rooftop is open to visitors, this important view should be preserved by controlling urban planning around the Temple.

- (ix) Around the Barkhor Area, some non-traditional buildings have been replaced by new ones of traditional design and scale. Although the general urban landscape has kept its integrity, detailed design guidelines should be prepared to further improve the buffer zone. These should take into account the protection of important views and traditional facades.

The mission was informed that the Tibet Academy of Architectural Design developed a *Handbook on Design Guidelines for Traditional Tibetan Architecture* in 2003, which is being circulated for review and comments. The *Handbook*, synthesizing the historic evolution, architectural characteristics and styles of traditional Tibetan Architecture and its design and restoration, provides an important working tool and some basic guidelines for the urban planners, architects and professionals involved in the design and restoration of Tibetan buildings. It will be published and used as training resource material for conservation experts and engineers.

- (x) The site managers further informed the mission that training activities on conservation techniques of traditional Tibetan architecture and mural paintings are required for the maintenance and restoration of cultural heritage properties in Tibet. The mission suggested that exchange programmes be developed on the restoration of wooden structures and their fire protection systems with other countries, such as Republic of Korea, Japan and Scandinavian countries.

In this regard, with a view to promoting sustainable urban development and enhancing capacities of management authorities of the historic city of Lhasa and as a follow-up to the decisions taken at the 27th and 28th sessions of the Committee, the World Heritage Centre supported the organization of a two-week study tour to Europe (France and Portugal) from 6 to 12 November 2004 for ten Chinese and Tibetan experts in urban heritage conservation, headed by Mr Jagre Losang-danizin, Vice-Chairman of the Tibet Autonomous Region. With support from the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and the Portuguese authorities, the Chinese and Tibetan experts were provided with examples of “best practice” on conservation of cultural heritage in the selected

European cities and several on-site training activities were organized for the Delegation, presenting different types of operations and legal frameworks in the domain of heritage conservation and urban development.

- (xi) Regarding information sharing and communication of World Heritage values, the mission noted that further action needs to be taken by the site management authority to communicate to the public the nature of the conservation programmes, including by announcing proposed plan or outline of projects. An English web page introducing conservation projects in Lhasa city could also promote the heritage protection work being undertaken to the international community.
- (xii) There is a lack of on-site presentation and interpretation of the World Heritage values of the Potala Palace. At present, there is no good signage, little printed information material available for visitors and no indication of the sacred character of the property. The Management Office is well aware of these issues and has proposed to use the Shöl Area as a visitor centre. Since 2003, the Potala Palace Management Office has been limiting the number of visitors to 1,300 per day. In the future, the Management Authority may need to develop other mechanisms to address the challenge of tourism pressure at the site. The proposed Exhibition Complex at the Shöl Area could divert the visitor flow from the Potala Palace. However, training activities on sustainable tourism management and planning need to be developed by the authorities for the better protection of cultural heritage properties in Tibet.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.50.Rev

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Add**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.55** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Expresses its appreciation to the State Party for the actions taken to improve the state of conservation of the property and for inviting a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to the property;
4. Requests the State Party to take into consideration the findings and recommendations of the World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Monitoring Missions;

5. Recommends that the State Party reinforce the institutional coordination at the site by establishing at the level of the Tibet Autonomous Region, a Steering Committee to meet regularly to review the overall management of the Lhasa city and day-to-day management of the World Heritage property;
6. Recommends that the State Party consider a reappraisal and revision of the Overall Lhasa city Development Plan and the Conservation Plan 1999-2015, so as to further integrate heritage conservation into the overall planning process;
7. Requests the State Party to evaluate and possibly redefine the World Heritage buffer zones pertaining to the Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and Norbulingka and submit the detailed maps indicating the World Heritage boundary and protective buffer zones to the World Heritage Centre for consideration of the Committee at its 31st session in 2007;
8. Encourages the State Party to develop new guidelines for the conservation and rehabilitation of historic traditional buildings and the protection of important views within the historic centre of Lhasa;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and other international partners to support exchange programmes and training activities on the conservation of traditional timber structures and on sustainable tourism management and planning for the staff of the responsible authorities;
10. Recommends that the State Party consider ways and means to develop:
 - a) awareness-raising programmes on the restoration projects being undertaken at the property;
 - b) interpretation of the World Heritage values of the property to visitors;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2007**, a state of conservation report on the progress made on the implementation of the above recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

PART B: STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION

101. Historic Centre of Český Krumlov (Czech Republic) (ID 617)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1992

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous Committee's Decision(s):

N/A

International assistance:

Emergency Assistance (US\$ 50,000) in 2003 for the restoration of the Historic Centre of Prague and Historic Centre of Cesky Krumlov which were severely damaged by the floods of August 2002.

Main threat(s) identified in previous report(s):

Current Conservation issues:

In the 1950s a removable revolving audience (hereafter: 'revolving theatre') with 80 seats has been installed inside of the 17th century garden in front of the rococo summerhouse Bellaria in order to use this historic setting as a backdrop for the theatre. The theatre expanded in the 1960s and in 1998 to become a permanent construction with a present seating capacity of 650 visitors. Although playing theatre is an old tradition in the town of Český Krumlov, its Castle and Castle garden, the permanent construction of theatrical elements in the garden is a late 20th century phenomenon.

Since 2001, the Czech authorities and the World Heritage Centre have been corresponding with regard to the impact that the revolving theatre is having on the integrity of the property. At the invitation of the Czech Ministry of Culture, an ICOMOS monitoring mission was carried out from 20 to 24 January 2005 to assess the impact of the revolving theatre situated in the Castle garden as part of the World Heritage property, and to discuss the proposed new location for the theatre. This was the first reactive monitoring mission to the property as the previous attempt to field a mission in autumn 2002 was aborted due to heavy inundations and local elections.

The construction of the revolving theatre comprises a 6m deep foundation and is linked to number of under- and above- ground infrastructural components, heavily impacting the visual integrity and the archaeology of the site. The mission observed that all elements of the former garden design around the current location of the theatre had disappeared, and heavy use of the place resulted in extensive trampling and affected the area beyond the immediate surroundings of the theatres. The theatre only operates in the summer but the facilities block the vistas along the baroque axis and the central part of the garden. The early evening closure of the garden during the summer months further interferes with the enjoyment of the garden experience by visitors. The original 1692 Bellaria summerhouse itself has also greatly suffered from its use as stage, backstage, changing room and storage space.

A feasibility study was carried out regarding the possible relocation of the revolving theatre to a new location currently occupied by a derelict tree nursery in the buffer zone of the property. The study concluded that relocation of the theatre would be beneficial to all aspects of the theatrical events, but called for an architectural competition to design the new revolving theatre and its surroundings. The mission found the proposed location topographically well chosen, as it cannot be seen from the town nor the castle. However there is a visual impact on the garden, which should be mitigated through the design of the theatre setting. The planning of the new location should also be carried out in respect of the surrounding traditional cultural landscape. The mission recommends that garden archaeology needs to be involved in the removal of the theatre and that, once the theatre is removed, efforts should focus on conserving and restoring the Bellaria summerhouse as well as the affected garden components.

According to the mission, the castle garden is well maintained but the state of conservation of the garden in the eastern part has been degraded due to intrusive changes during the 1980s. However, the authenticity and integrity of the western parts of the garden is well maintained, as has remained largely undisturbed since the 17th century.

In addition to the "Land Use Plan of the City of Český Krumlov" currently under preparation and to be adopted in 2005, the conservation of the Castle garden will be based on the conceptual plan (draft) of "the Protection Principles in the Monument Reservation at Český Krumlov".

The removal of the revolving theatre from the current location is strongly supported by the Ministry of Culture, the National Institute for Preservation, ICOMOS Czech Republic and the town of České Budějovice. However, there is also

strong politically motivated opposition in the area, which considers the revolving theatre a prerequisite to traditional theatrical life and tourism in Český Krumlov.

The mission concluded that

- 1) the revolving theatre represents a severe problem impairing the integrity of the castle garden;
- 2) the current position of the revolving theatre is far from ideal from the theatrical point of view, and
- 3) the revolving theatre should therefore be removed and relocated as soon as possible and the international community should support the efforts of the Czech national authorities in this action.

Furthermore, the mission brought the attention of the World Heritage Centre to Article 19 of the Florence Charter for Historic Gardens (ICOMOS 1982), which states "by reason of its nature and purpose, a historic garden is a peaceful place conducive to human contacts, silence and awareness of nature. This conception of its everyday use must contrast with its role on those rare occasions when it accommodates a festivity. Thus, the conditions of such occasional use of a historic garden should be clearly defined, in order that any such festivity may itself serve to enhance the visual effect of the garden instead of perverting or damaging it."

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.101

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29COM 7B.Add**,
2. Takes note of the findings of the ICOMOS mission to the property;
3. Endorses the opinion of the State Party to remove the revolving theatre from its present location within the Castle gardens and recommends to involve garden archaeologists for such removal, and rehabilitate the garden area affected as well as the Bellaria Summerhouse in accordance with the conservation standards outlined in the draft conceptual plan;
4. Further recommends the State Party to ensure that the design of the revolving theatre and its setting at the new location within the buffer zone of the property are in harmony with the historic environment;

5. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a progress report by **1 February 2006** in order for the World Heritage Committee to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 30th session in 2006.