

Distribution limited

WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev

Paris, 15 June 2005

Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
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

As per Decision 7 EXT.COM 4B.1, paragraph 9, this document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, and is separated in two parts:

PART A: State of conservation reports for adoption requiring discussion by the Committee;

PART B: State of conservation reports for adoption requiring no discussion by the Committee;

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. In certain cases, the Committee may wish to decide to discuss in detail the state of conservation report presented in PART B. 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/>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
II.	STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT.....	2
A.	GENERAL ISSUES: THREATS TO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES.....	2
B.	THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTING AND PERIODIC REPORTING	5
C.	REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST	7
	NATURAL HERITAGE.....	7
	<i>AFRICA</i>	7
	PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION.....	7
	1. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 39)	7
	PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	8
	2. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)	8
	3. W National Park of Niger (Niger) (N 749).....	9
	4. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684).....	10
	<i>ARAB STATES</i>	11
	PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	11
	5. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506).....	11
	6. Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman) (N 654).....	13
	<i>ASIA AND PACIFIC</i>	14
	PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION.....	14
	7. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) (N1039)	14
	8. Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340).....	15
	9. Tropical Rainforest of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)	16
	10. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)	18
	PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION	19
	11. Purnululu National Park (Australia) (N 1094).....	19
	12. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)	20
	13. Tubbataha Reef Marine Park (Philippines) (N 653)	21
	14. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Vietnam) (N 951 rev).....	22

<i>EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA</i>	22
PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION.....	22
15. Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland) (N 33-627).....	22
16. Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada) (N 304 bis).....	23
17. Miguasha National Park (Canada) (N 225).....	24
18. Danube Delta (Romania) (N 588).....	25
19. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754).....	26
20. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765 bis).....	28
21. Durmitor National Park (Serbia and Montenegro) (N 100).....	30
22. Yellowstone (United States of America) (N 28).....	32
PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION.....	33
23. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225).....	33
24. Skocjan Caves (Slovenia) (N 390).....	34
25. Doñana National Park (Spain) (N 685).....	35
26. Henderson Island (United Kingdom) (N 487).....	35
27. Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (United Kingdom) (N 369).....	36
 <i>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</i>	 37
PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION.....	37
28. Iguazu National Park (Brazil) (N 355).....	37
29. Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) (N 1 bis).....	38
 MIXED PROPERTIES	 41
 <i>ASIA AND PACIFIC</i>	 41
PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION.....	41
30. Kakadu National Park (Australia) (C/N 147 bis).....	41
 <i>EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA</i>	 42
PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION.....	42
31. Pyrénées – Mont Perdu (France/Spain) (C/N 773bis).....	42
32. Mount Athos (Greece) (C/N 454).....	42
 <i>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</i>	 44
PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION.....	44
33. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C 274).....	44
 CULTURAL HERITAGE	 47
 <i>AFRICA</i>	 47
PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION.....	47
34. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15).....	47
35. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C1055).....	48

36.	Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116 rev)	50
37.	Island of Gorée (Senegal) (C 26)	51
38.	Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956)	52
39.	Robben Island (South Africa) (C 916)	53
PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION		55
40.	Matobo Hills (Zimbabwe) (C 306rev)	55
<i>ARAB STATES</i>		56
PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION		56
41.	Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093)	56
42.	Islamic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)	57
43.	Ksar of Aït-Ben-Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)	58
100.	Archaeological site of Volubilis (Morocco) (C 836)	59
PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION		61
44.	Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565)	61
45.	Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)	62
46.	Bahla Fort (Oman) (C 433)	63
47.	Medina of Essaouira (former Mogador) (Morocco) (C 753 rev)	64
<i>ASIA AND PACIFIC</i>		65
PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION		65
48.	Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (Bangladesh) (C 322)	65
49.	Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing and Shengyang (China) (C439bis)	67
50.	Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa (China) (C 707ter)	68
51.	Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (India) (C 1101)	69
52.	Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya (India) (C 1056 rev)	70
53.	Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia) (C 592)	72
54.	Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 115)	74
55.	Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666)	75
56.	Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka) (C 451)	77
57.	Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603 rev)	78
58.	Complex of Hué Monuments (Vietnam) (C 678)	79
PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION		81
59.	Taj Mahal (C 252), Agra Fort (C 251) and Fatepur Sikri (C 255) (India)	81
60.	Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 479 rev)	82
61.	State Historical and Cultural Park "Ancient Merv" (Turkmenistan) (C 886)	83
62.	Historic Centre of Shakhrisayabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)	84
<i>EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA</i>		85
PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION		85
63.	City of Graz - Historic Centre (Austria) (C 931)	85
64.	City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)	86

65.	Rock Drawings in Valcamonica (Italy) (C 94)	87
66.	City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy) (C 712 bis)	89
67.	Curonian Spit (Lithuania and Russian Federation) (C 994).....	90
68.	Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland) (C 31)	92
69.	Old Town of Avila and its Extra-Muros Churches (Spain) (C 348 rev)	93
70.	Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356).....	94
PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION		96
71.	Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley (Andorra) (C 1160).....	96
72.	Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784).....	97
73.	Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn (Austria) (C 786).....	98
74.	Historic District of Québec (Canada) (C 300)	99
75.	Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)	99
76.	Classical Weimar (Germany) (C 846)	101
77.	Etruscan Necropolises of Cerveteri and Tarquinia (Italy) (C 1158)	101
78.	Historic Centre of Riga (Latvia) (C 852).....	102
79.	Old Town of Vilnius (Lithuania) (C 541).....	103
80.	The Megalithic Temples of Malta (Malta) (C 132 bis).....	104
81.	Cultural Landscape of Sintra (Portugal) (C 723)	105
82.	Historic Centre of Sighisoara (Romania) (C 902).....	106
83.	Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544).....	107
84.	Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Serbia and Montenegro) (C 125).....	108
85.	Route of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) (C 669).....	109
86.	Old City of Salamanca (Spain) (C 381rev).....	110
87.	L'viv - the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) (C 865).....	111
88.	Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated sites (United Kingdom) (C 373).....	112
89.	Tower of London (United Kingdom) (C 488).....	112
 <i>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</i>		<i>113</i>
PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION.....		113
90.	Maya Site of Copán (Honduras) (C 129).....	113
91.	Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico) (C 414).....	115
92.	Coro and its Port (Venezuela) (C 658).....	116
PART B : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING NO DISCUSSION		118
93.	Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) (C 526).....	118
94.	Fortifications on the Caribbean side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) (C 135)	119
95.	Archaeological Site of Chavín (Peru) (C 330).....	120
96.	City of Cuzco (Peru) (C 273).....	120
97.	Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016).....	121
98.	Lines and Geoglyphs of Nazca and Pampas de Jumana (Peru) (C 700)	122
99.	Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay) (C 747)	123

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document deals with reactive monitoring as it is defined in the *Operational Guidelines*: "The reporting by the Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to the Bureau and the Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties that are under threat". Reactive monitoring is foreseen in the procedures for the inclusion of properties in the List of World Heritage in Danger (paragraphs 177-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*) and for the eventual deletion of properties from the World Heritage List (paragraphs 192-198 of the *Operational Guidelines*).
2. By its Decision **7 EXT.COM 4B.1**, the Committee had requested that the Director of the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, propose at its 29th session:
 - criteria to present State of Conservation reports before the Committee;
 - criteria orienting the inclusion of a site in the category "for adoption requiring discussion" and the category "for adoption requiring no discussion";
3. These criteria are proposed within this introductory section.
4. The properties to be reported on have been selected, among all those inscribed on the World Heritage List, in consultation between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. In making the selection, the following have been considered:
 - Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in Danger (Cf. Documents *WHC-05/29.COM/7A* and *WHC-05/29.COM/7A.Add*);
 - Properties for which state-of-conservation reports and/or reactive monitoring missions were requested by the Committee at previous sessions;
 - Properties which have come under serious threat since the last session of the Committee and which require urgent actions;
 - Properties where, upon inscription, follow-up was requested by the Committee.

II. STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

5. This document includes three distinct sections on (A) general issues: threats to World Heritage properties; (B) the relationship between State of Conservation reporting and Periodic Reporting; and (C) the state of conservation of specific properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.
6. The latter is divided into Part A and Part B for each region, taking into account decision **27 COM 7B.106.3**, which requested, "...that the reports are categorized as follows:
 - (a) Reports with recommended decisions which, in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, require discussion by the World Heritage Committee,
 - (b) Reports which, in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, can be noted without discussion,"
7. Reports in category (b) will not be discussed unless a request is made to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee in advance of the discussion of this agenda item.
8. The reports have been categorized according to the following criteria, established in consultation between the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies:
9. Properties are included in category (a) (i.e. Part A) for discussion when, in the view of the Secretariat and Advisory Bodies:
 - The threat is serious and urgent
 - The possible solution to the conservation problem requires the involvement of more than one State Party;
 - A decision from the Committee is likely to have an impact on the situation;
 - A debate / discussion is required on the general issue raised by the report;
 - The Committee has specifically asked information for decision.

10. All other properties will be in category (b) (i.e. Part B).

11. To facilitate the work of the Committee, a standard format has been used for all state of conservation reports. This format has been adapted taking into account decision **27 COM 7B 106.4**:

“Invites the World Heritage Centre to present all information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List in the following manner:

- a) the report on each property should start on a new page,
- b) the identification number of the property allocated at the time of its nomination should be used in the document,
- c) an index of all properties should also be included,
- d) the decisions should have a standard layout, draft recommendation, and should be concise and operational;”

12. Therefore the standard format includes:

Name of the property (State Party) (ID number)

- Year of inscription on the World Heritage List;
- Inscription criteria;
- Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- Previous Committee Decisions;
- International Assistance;
- Previous monitoring mission(s);
- Main threat(s) identified in previous report(s);
- Current conservation issues;
- Draft Decision.

13. The information contained in this document was prepared in consultation with other UNESCO Divisions and with the Advisory Bodies.

A. GENERAL ISSUES: THREATS TO WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

14. There are a number of common threats to World Heritage properties reported in this document. The Committee at past sessions discussed already a number of these, including mining (at its 23rd session in 1999), fires or introduced species. On mining specifically, an international Workshop was organized by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in coordination with the International Council on Mining and the Environment (ICME) in 2000. The results were reported to the Committee at its 24th session (Cairns, 2000) and published¹. As a follow-up, the landmark pledge by the International Council for Minerals and Metals (ICMM) for World Heritage sites as no-go areas for mining was reached in August 2003².

15. The issues reported in this document include resource extraction (such as mining), political issues such as armed conflict, natural disasters, and external threats impacting on the site but with origins outside the property itself, such as climate change. On the two issues of climate change and disasters, in particular, the following information is provided.

Climate Change

16. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received four petitions compiled by a number of concerned organizations, individuals and institutions seeking to have four World Heritage properties - Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal – 1979; N (iii)), Huascarán National Park (Peru – 1985, N (ii), (iii)), Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize –

¹(<http://www.natural-resources.org/minerals/latam/docs/readings/iucn.doc>)

²(http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12648&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html; or <http://www.icmm.com/news/1581CMMPressRelease-noareas-20August03.pdf>).

- 1996; N (ii), (iii), (iv)) and the Great Barrier Reef (Australia – 1981; N (i), (ii), (iii), (iv)) - included on the List of World Heritage in Danger on the basis of climate change and associated impacts. Although two ecosystems are considered (mountain and marine), the petitions have common issues. The petitioners argue that serious and specific ascertained and potential dangers have arisen or are likely to arise from the impacts of climate change and consequently they advocate for an adaptive programme of corrective measures. Danger listing is recommended in the petitions as a strong and preferred option at the global level. The petitions review relevant legal instruments and the obligations of each State Party for each property. They suggest a growing consensus among the various stakeholders for the need for more concerted efforts in conserving these properties in the face of climate change and associated impacts.
17. There has been no formal response from any of the States Parties concerned to these petitions.
18. IUCN recognizes that genuine concerns are raised relating to threats to natural World Heritage properties that are or may be the result of climate change. The arguments presented in each petition are similar in structure and content. The key issues raised in the Great Barrier Reef petition for example and the description of its technical background seem well founded and properly referenced. Issues affecting coral reefs besides climate change, such as over-fishing, pollution, coral disease, coastal development/tourism, cumulative impact of threats affecting coral resilience have been included however with little in-depth justification of how these activities impact on or are impacted on by climate change. IUCN notes that climate change is impacting coral reefs globally, through specific events such as the El Nino Southern Oscillation weather phenomenon and that such impacts are not unique to the Great Barrier Reef.
19. IUCN considers, however, that it would be premature to accept the petitions outright and recommend inscription on the danger list. There is insufficient technical data and evidence on the impacts of climate change on the properties. Significant detailed information on climate change and projected impacts on the respective ecological systems (mountain, glacier and coral reef) is provided, but little detailed information of observed or projected impacts on the World Heritage properties. The available information draws only on a few references. IUCN notes that the potential impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties are global and indirect as opposed to other threats, which may be local and direct. IUCN further notes that the impacts of climate change affect many more other World Heritage properties than the properties identified in the petitions.
20. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and its partners are undertaking considerable research and planning related to the impacts of climate change on the coral reef. This knowledge and experience may assist other States Parties faced by similar problems. The World Heritage Centre, moreover, has been informed that some States Parties are giving consideration to the impact of global warming on cultural heritage sites.
21. Concerned States Parties and representatives of petitioners might wish to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and other interested States Parties and partners, to organize a workshop to consider the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties, appropriate adaptive management strategies and explore options of improved collaboration between the States Parties of affected properties.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.a Rev

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Takes note of the four petitions seeking to have Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal), Huascarán National Park (Peru), the Great Barrier Reef (Australia) and the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) included on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
3. Appreciates the genuine concerns raised by the various organizations and individuals supporting these petitions relating to threats to natural World Heritage properties that are or may be the result of climate change;
4. Further notes that the impacts of climate change are affecting many and are likely to affect many more World Heritage properties, both natural and cultural in the years to come;
5. Encourages all States Parties to seriously consider the potential impacts of climate change within their management planning, in particular with monitoring and risk preparedness strategies and take early action in response to these potential impacts;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, interested States Parties and petitioners, to

consider the organization of an international experts workshop on reacting to the threat of climate change on World Heritage properties;

7. *Decides not to include the four properties: Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal), Huascarán National Park (Peru), the Great Barrier Reef (Australia) and the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

Natural and Human-made Disasters

22. The year 2004 will be remembered for the devastating earthquake and Tsunami that hit the countries of South Asia, causing over 300,000 victims and millions of homeless. Other disasters, however, had caused major destructions and suffering in previous years, including the earthquakes of Arequipa (Peru) , Bam (Iran); tornados and typhoons in sub-tropical regions (Haiti, Salvador, etc.); or massive land slides (such as in Machu Picchu - Peru). Besides causing the terrible loss of human lives, disasters seriously undermine the results of development investments in a very short time, and therefore, remain a major impediment to sustainable development and poverty eradication. Among the precious resources affected, World Heritage properties, many of which located in highly vulnerable areas, are at risk of irreparable losses. Moreover, the number and impact of these events appear to be increasing in recent years, possibly due to growing widespread development in areas previously considered at risk, the introduction of unsustainable practices and the alteration/removal of natural defenses.
23. Drawing from concerns originating after the Second World War and renewed in 1992 because of the high and visible incidence of disasters and armed conflict on television in the early 90s, UNESCO and other partner institutions such as ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN, and ICOM have in the past years developed a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacity of site managers to address risk management for World Heritage cultural and natural properties. These included the preparation of Guidelines for integrating risk preparedness in the management of World Cultural Heritage (Stovel, 1998) and more recently the development of *Training Kits on Risk Preparedness* by ICCROM. In parallel, ICOMOS, ICOM, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the International Council on Archives (ICA) established the *International Committee for the Blue Shield*, a network of

professionals in support of risk preparedness for cultural heritage.

24. Within the framework of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe (Japan) between 18 and 22 January 2005, the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan and ICCROM, organized a Thematic Session on “*Risk Management for Cultural Heritage*”. Among the recommendations resulting from the Thematic Session, a very important outcome was the recognition of heritage, in both its tangible and intangible forms of expression, as an invaluable resource for reducing the impact of disasters on lives, properties and livelihoods, and for establishing a culture of prevention. The conservation of the cultural and natural heritage, and the transmission of traditional skills and local knowledge systems, in other words, would not be just important per se, i.e. for their intrinsic historic, artistic or scientific significance, but because they may contribute fundamentally to sustainable development, including to mitigating disasters.
25. A renewed emphasis was therefore placed by the participants on the urgent need for national authorities to develop the appropriate risk mitigation policies and operational mechanisms to ensure the protection of World Heritage and other cultural and natural heritage from disasters, so as to enable the latter to play its beneficial role within the overall context of sustainable development. In this context, heritage should be integrated into existing disaster mitigation policies and mechanisms, including those under the responsibility of Civil defense Departments and Local authorities, rather than have its own separate procedures. Special care should be put in involving local communities in the preparation and implementation of risk management plans, and all stages of disaster recovery, and in including cultural and natural heritage as a subject of scientific research, academic, educational, and training programmes associated with risk management and disaster recovery. The full text of the Recommendations from the Kobe Thematic Session on “*Risk management for Culture Heritage*” can be found at the following web address: <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr> .
26. These considerations, integrated with previous experiences developed within the context of World Heritage, will constitute the basis for the elaboration of the strategy on risk-preparedness, requested by the Committee for its examination at the 30th session in 2006 (Decision **28 COM 10 B**), as a follow up to

the evaluation of the Emergency Assistance programme, carried out in 2004. In the mean time, the World Heritage Centre has included assistance for the development of risk-management sensitive Management Plans within its proposals for the 33 C/5, to be examined by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 33rd session in October 2005. In addition, a Programme for Strengthening Risk Management at World Heritage Properties has been elaborated by the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies. This Programme, which takes into account the recommendations of the Kobe Thematic Session, is currently in search of sponsor(s).

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.b Rev

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Having taken note of the serious threat posed by disasters on the conservation of World Heritage and of the very negative impact that disasters may have on perspectives for sustainable development and poverty eradication of communities living around affected World Heritage properties,
3. Strongly encourages States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to act swiftly with a view to integrate concern for heritage within their overall policies and operational mechanisms for disaster mitigation, and to develop appropriate risk-sensitive Management Plans for the World Heritage properties located in their territories;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to take into account the recommendations of the Kobe Thematic Session on “Risk management for Culture Heritage” in the elaboration of the strategy on risk-preparedness to be examined by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
5. Strongly encourages the International Donor Community to provide support to programmes aimed at the strengthening of risk management at World Heritage properties.

B. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTING and PERIODIC REPORTING

27. As requested by the World Heritage Committee by its Decision **7 EXT.COM 4B.1**, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies included the issue of the relationship between the state of conservation reporting on World Heritage properties and the Periodic Reporting according to article 29 of the *Convention*, specifically section II of the Periodic Reports, in the agenda of their meeting of 24/25 February 2005. Subsequently, a meeting in the framework of the UNF project on Enhancing our Heritage took place in Paris on 2 -3 May 2005, which also discussed this matter. The following draft Decision is proposed as a result of these discussions:

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.c Rev

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision **7 EXT.COM 4B.1** at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004), which invited the Director of the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to submit at its 29th session proposals on ways and means of optimizing the interrelation between the results of the Periodic Reporting cycles and the conclusions derived from the State of Conservation reports – in particular in order to ensure consistency and a better conservation of the sites,
3. Noting that discussions have taken place in this regard at a meeting of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre (February 2005) and at workshop on Management Effectiveness, Monitoring for World Heritage Value and Statutory Reporting (May 2005),
4. Highlights that there are fundamental differences between the two processes of periodic reporting and reactive monitoring, as indicated in the Operational Guidelines;
5. Calls for better linkages between both processes in the future, including in the following ways:
 - a) *the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre should carefully consider information provided in the relevant State Party Periodic Reports*

when preparing state of conservation reports, in particular use the information provided on threats to the properties to focus the attention of reactive monitoring;

- b) *States Parties should take into account the content and decisions of previous state of conservation reports when preparing their site specific Periodic Reports; in particular provide an update on threats highlighted through the reactive monitoring process and on the measures taken by the State Party to mitigate these threats;*
 - c) *A database currently being developed by the World Heritage Centre on World Heritage properties should allow for cross-referencing between state of conservation and periodic reports to enhance consistency in reporting mechanisms and to ensure that follow-up action is taken as necessary;*
6. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to take this issue up at the forthcoming meetings leading to and during the Reflection Year of the Periodic Reporting process.*

**C. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF
CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES
INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE
LIST**

NATURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

**PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION
REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING
DISCUSSION**

**1. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United
Republic of Tanzania) (N 39)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

*Years of inscription on the List of World Heritage in
Danger:* 1984-1989

Previous Committee Decision(s):

**26 COM 21 (b) 22
28 COM 15A.6**

International Assistance :

Technical co-operation for a scientific study of vehicle
congestion in the Ngorongoro crater (2001:
US\$10,000)

Previous monitoring mission(s):

IUCN mission 21-24 April 1986

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

Increased human pastoral population density;
Immigration of agricultural communities; Poaching;
Spread of invasive species; Tourism pressure.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a report from the
State Party dated 20 January 2005 as requested by the
26th session of the Committee, which was transmitted
to IUCN for its comments.

The State Party's report addressed the request of the
Committee on the cultivation and livestock use within
the property, acknowledging that persistent cultivation
remains the most serious land use conflict within the
Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) and
recommending a range of measures agreed with the
local communities, village governments and
traditional leaders. The State Party asserts that the
Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCA) has
continued to stop immigrants from entering and those

within from cultivating. Negotiations for an
alternative area for agriculture and relocation of
immigrants outside the NCA are still ongoing. It is
hoped that the authority in collaboration with
community leaders will relocate up to 200 households
to an appropriate locality once an agreement is
reached although no clear timeframe is provided.
NCA management itself will also be relocated outside
the park to minimize human pressure in the area.

In relation to management issues, the report stated that
the existing Management Plan is currently under
review with the first and second phase of the review
having been conducted in January and February 2005
respectively. These two phases include buffer zone
delineation of the areas surrounding the NCA. The
report notes that a boundary resurvey has been
completed and the final work is with the Ministry of
Lands for the issuing of the title deed.

In regard to tourism pressure, the State Party reported
that the NCAA in collaboration with Tanzanian
Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and others is
currently conducting an environmental impact
assessment for the vehicle congestion in the crater, a
study for which the World Heritage Fund provided
US\$ 10,000 in 2001. The results of the assessment
will be used by NCAA to determine the sustainable
use level of the crater. In the meantime visits to the
crater are reduced to half a day and vehicle admission
fees are raised with 60%. The State Party further
reported that the NCA has diversified tourism
activities by promoting walking safaris and cultural
tourism to archaeological properties in order to
minimize the number of vehicles in the crater. The
involvement of the local community and poverty
alleviation efforts currently revolve around walking
safaris. Income accrued is divided between the
NCAA and the local communities.

The State Party report outlined future plans to
improve the status of the NCA by restructuring the
NCAA. For the first time the NCAA will have a
Corporate Plan, a new Scheme of Service and a new
Organization Structure. The authority is also to
undertake a review of Ngorongoro Ordinance CAP
413 of 1959 scheduled to take place during the next
financial year. Other commitments relate to the
efforts of NCAA to set aside funds to obtain and
develop alternative areas outside the NCA that will be
used to relocate immigrants and those who cannot
afford to sustain their lives as pastoralists.

NCAA is undertaking periodic monitoring of flora and
fauna resources, the World Heritage Centre notes
though that no reference is made in the report to the
declining population of Wildebeest and other plains
ungulates. These populations have earlier been
subject to a study upon the request of NCAA,
published in 2002: *Ngorongoro Crater Ungulate
Study 1996-1999, Final Report*. No mention is made
in the State Party's report of the implementation of the

reports recommendations as the establishment of a multidisciplinary scientific committee; the commissioning of a hydrological survey of the whole NCA; implementation of an ecological burning programme; the mitigation of ecologically unacceptable roadwork in the Crater; the development of a comprehensive road plan subject to an EIA and supervision of tourism in the Crater (see **26 COM 21(b).22**).

The World Heritage Centre informs that funding has been provided from the World Heritage Fund for an amount of US\$ 19,294 to prepare a nomination file and integrated Management Plan for Ngorongoro as a mixed property, including cultural criteria because of its rich archaeological and palaeontological heritage.

The World Heritage Centre notes that the NCA General Management Plan, established in 1996 was foreseen to guide the management during five to ten years for which reason a revision of the total plan is recommended.

IUCN received information from the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) noting that tourism and pastoralist use of the Ngorongoro Crater and surrounding area has increased dramatically over the last decade, and is currently having a direct impact on the property.

The report indicates that despite concerted efforts over the past decades lack of tourism management and illegal encroachment still persist within the World Heritage property. IUCN acknowledges its involvement in Ngorongoro since the 1950's and recognizes the challenges involved in multiple land use systems in Africa and specifically the NCA as a location of one of the earliest attempts to integrate human use with conservation values in an African conservation area and commends the efforts of the Tanzanian authorities (Ngorongoro Conservation Area) over the past years to improve the status of the property. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are concerned that the State Party has not adequately addressed a number of issues as per the request of the 26th session of the Committee including the invasive species problem within the wheat fields around Karatu. An appropriate, consultative and detailed environmental impact assessment of all future developments in the area needs to be undertaken and the recommendations of existing ones implemented.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15A.6, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for positive actions undertaken for the conservation and protection of the property; particularly in redressing

tourism pressure, diversifying tourist activities, improving the livelihoods of the local pastoralists and moves to restructure the organization of the NCA, introduce a new scheme of service and improve the management of the area;

4. Requests the State Party to finalize plans in addressing the issue of the resident pastoralist population and curtailing the immigrant agricultural population and reviewing the general Management Plan, the Ngorongoro ordinance and the corporate plan;
5. Further requests the State Party to provide information on progress made in controlling heavy tourist pressure within the crater including the results of the Vehicle Congestion Assessment;
6. Reiterates its earlier request from the 26th session that the State Party report on efforts to control the invasive weed "Mexican poppy" - *Argemone mexicana* within the crater;
7. Requests the State Party to provide a report on the state of conservation of the property including the issues mentioned above by 1 February 2006 for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

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

2. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1987

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.1
28 COM 15B.2

International Assistance:

US\$ 47,000 US dollars, Technical Co-operation
US\$ 34,700 US dollars, Training Assistance

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO mission 23-26 March 1998

Main threat(s) identified in previous reports:

Lack of monitoring of the implementation of Management Plan.

Current conservation issues:

In November 2004, the European Delegation and Coopération Française in Cameroon, informed UNESCO of the existence of industrial activities in

the vicinity of the property. According to the information provided, the American company GEOVIC has been allocated 6,950 hectares of land 50 km from the reserve, in order to carry out on it industrial mining activities on a lateritic cobalt-nickel deposit. According to the agreement which is reported to have been drawn up, the said zone is to be extended by 40 hectares a year on average and for a certain number of years. Furthermore, an Economic Interest Grouping is believed to have obtained a large area in the buffer zone for industrial farming.

At the time of the preparation of this document, the World Heritage Centre had still not officially received the report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). Nevertheless, the final version of this report, submitted to the national authorities for validation, has been communicated to the Centre. This document mentions an increase in the threats due to commercial hunting and confirms an intensification of industrial activities on the periphery of the World Heritage property. The said document also reports that although the Management Plan of the Dja Faunal Reserve was validated at the national seminar held in January 2004, the ministerial order that should have rendered it effective has still not been signed. It should also be noted that since November 2004, the former Ministry of the Environment and Forestry which was responsible for the management of the World Heritage property has been separated into two ministries: the Ministry of Forests and Fauna and the Ministry of Nature Protection. The World Heritage Centre has still not been officially informed which ministry is now responsible for the Dja Faunal Reserve. This uncertainty could have serious short-term consequences on the management of the property, if clarifications were not made.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7B.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.2** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that the State Party has still not submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, as requested by Decision **28 COM 15B.2** adopted at the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004);
4. Invites the State Party to sign the ministerial order necessary to the implementation of the Management Plan, and to communicate to the World Heritage Centre the details of the institution in charge of the protection and the management of the World Heritage property;
5. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the IUCN to organise a joint UNESCO/IUCN

mission to the property in order to assess the state of conservation of the Dja Faunal Reserve, the threats due to commercial hunting and verify the existence of industrial activities on the periphery of the World Heritage property;

6. Further requests the IUCN and the World Heritage Centre to present a report on the results of the mission, by **1 February 2006** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session, in 2006.

3. W National Park of Niger (Niger) (N 749)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1996

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.5
28 COM 15B.1

International Assistance:

US\$ 44,879, Technical Co-operation

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/RAMSAR mission, 8-22 May 2004

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

Lack of monitoring of the implementation of the Management Plan.

Current conservation issues:

At its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the Committee requested that the State Party provide a report on the results of any environmental impact assessment which might be carried out or of any decisions taken concerning the planned dam and mining inside the Park. On 25 March 2005, the Centre received from the State Party a letter confirming once again that no relevant environmental study had been undertaken, for the simple reason that Niger is no longer considering the construction of a dam or the working of a mine in the W National Park. It should also be noted that a proposal to extend the W Park into a transboundary property with Burkina Faso and Benin is in hand with the support of the ECOPAS regional programme (Ecosystèmes Protégés en Afrique Sahélienne – Protected Ecosystems in North-West Africa).

Draft decision: 29 COM 7B.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.1** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),

3. *Thanks the State Party for its decision to forgo the construction of a dam and mining activities in the W National Park;*
4. *Encourages Niger, Burkina Faso and Benin to finalise the proposal to extend the W Park into a transboundary property between the three countries.*

4. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1994

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.7
28 COM 15A.8

International Assistance :

Total amount provided to the property US\$96,249 (US\$32,249 for technical support activities and US\$64,000 as emergency assistance).

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint IUCN/UNESCO mission 5-11 January 2003

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

Impact of tourism, especially climbing expeditions; Anti-personnel mines infestation in the park; Staffing and budgetary deficiencies; Degradation of lands around the park.

Current conservation issues:

As requested by the Committee, the State Party submitted a report through its Permanent Delegation in February 2005. The report stated that for the first time, since the park has been gazetted in 1941, a ten year General Management Plan has been developed and adopted by the Board of Trustees of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) on 29 June 2004. The implementation of the plan started 1 July 2004. To ensure proper and systematic implementation of planned activities and the judicious allocation of human and other resources, a business plan, based on the General Management Plan is being developed with assistance from the World Conservation Society.

It should be noted that all relevant staff is in place, field operations are facilitated by new means of transport. The building of new headquarters close to the park and main tourist entrance is being planned. The survey and marking of boundaries, is reported to continue, involving both neighboring communities, relevant government officials and other agencies. The Committee was informed at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) that 30% of the open boundary had been demarcated, this year the survey is about to be completed. Concrete pillars are being constructed

along the border, which was foreseen to be completed in December 2004. The World Heritage Centre has not yet received a map indicating the precise surveyed and marked boundary of the property.

The Uganda Peoples Defense Force (UPDF) is removing mines from the Park. The security situation remained good since 2001, although a few areas of strategic security concern are manned by the UPDF itself. The World Heritage Centre notes that at the time of the IUCN/UNESCO mission in 2003, no security forces were occupying any part of the property.

Management is currently giving attention to improving existing trails, developing shorter and longer new trails as well as diversifying tourist activities. The general Management Plan has indicated the need for a comprehensive tourism development plan.

The World Heritage Centre notes that the report does not mention the implementation of an announced monitoring and research plan to monitor illegal activities and extraction of natural resources such as poaching and logging as well as impacts of tourism, fires and human – wildlife conflicts. Also no mention is made of the work of the Community Protected Area Institution (CPI), a local community committee which works with UWA to address issues that affect the community/Park relations, established on the recommendation of the 2003 IUCN/UNESCO mission.

The progress being made in relation to the Management Plan, tourism infrastructure and management, boundary demarcation and the removal of mines is noted. The IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas has considerable expertise in tourism in protected areas and would be available for consultation on best practice for such issues. IUCN also noted the collaborative work of Ugandan Wildlife Authority, WWF EARPO (Eastern African Regional Program Office) and WWF Norway, and encouraged the involved parties to report on the outcomes of the project in due course so that others may learn from the experiences.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,*
2. *Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15A.8**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Notes with thanks the report submitted by the State Party;*
4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the General Management Plan and a map of the*

property showing the precise surveyed and marked boundary;

5. *Commends* Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), one year after the removal of the property of the List of World Heritage in Danger, for ongoing work to improve management and conservation of the property, notably through the implementation of a ten year Management Plan, as well as considerable efforts to support the sustainable development of appropriate tourism in the Park;
6. *Requests* the State Party to submit a report on the state of conservation by **1 February 2006** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session.

ARAB STATES

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

5. Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) (N 506)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1989

Criteria: N (ii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.7

28 COM 15B.7

International Assistance :

Total amount (until 2005): US\$ 35,000

Previous monitoring mission(s):

21-28 September 2002 World Heritage Centre Consultative Mission; 20-29 June 2003: Consultative Mission to draw up an analysis of the documents concerning the Environmental Impact Assessment of the oil exploration being carried out by Woodside, an Australian oil company, in the area around the Banc d'Arguin Park; June 2004: joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank mission.

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

Oil exploration; Mechanical shellfish harvesting; Impact of the Nouakchott and Nouadhibou road (started in 2003); Structural, human, organisational and budgetary malfunctions of the institution responsible for the management of the PNBA; Absence of any real ecotourism policy and strategy; Poor progress recorded in the improvement of the living conditions of the local populations.

Current conservation issues:

In reference to the Decisions of the the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), and following the request for technical assistance aimed at finalising the properties Development and Management Plan (DPM), a round table meeting of the PNBA's partners was organised by the World Heritage Centre in Paris on 29 and 30 November 2004. The DPM for the Park, finalised in November 2004 was presented to all PNBA's partners at this round table meeting. The DPM covers five themes: biodiversity conservation; coordination of scientific research; local (or community) development; the strategy on communication and the visibility of the institution; governance.

Several points in the DPM deserving improvement were identified and listed in the minutes of the round table discussions.

Among the suggestions raised, the Centre drew the participants' attention to the possibility of envisaging the creation of a future Biosphere Reserve, including the PNBA and its Cap Blanc Satellite Reserve, as well as other adjacent territories, recognised as being of major importance in the relationship between man and natural resources. A feasibility mission might take place, if the Mauritanian authorities so wish.

Several partners intervened in the course of the meeting, in particular the representative of the World Bank and the Advisor of the Mauritanian Minister of Economic Affairs and Development. They presented the Public Sector Capacity Building Project, one of whose sections will concern the environment and which could take the form of the setting up of a pilot project for which the PNBA would constitute a focal point. Since this meeting, the Management of the PNBA has transmitted to the Centre the documents relating to the workshop on the institutional organisation for the Fiduciary Fund for the Banc d'Arguin National Park, which took place in Nouakchott from 23 to 25 March 2005. In his report, the Manager of the PNBA also pointed out that a consultant was currently being recruited with a view to the drawing up of the "business" plan of the Development and Management Plan, which must be finalized by August 2005.

Concerning the oil exploration issue, no documents have reached the Centre from the State Party. The only document that the Centre was able to analyse in 2004 was the old EIA drawn up by Woodside, the Australian oil company, for the off-shore well known as "Chinguetti". Since then, this same company has discovered another oil field three times larger than the previous one. It must be emphasised that even the technical clauses of contracts signed by the State Party with all the oil companies remain confidential. No information is known about the negotiations relating to compensation and to the solutions foreseen in the event of any accidental spillage of oil in the sea. This

is why it is necessary to insist on the drawing up of a request that the State Party must submit to the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization, which is responsible for measures aiming at improving the safety of international maritime transport and preventing pollution by ships, in order to obtain for the Banc d'Arguin Park the status of "Particularly Sensitive Sea Area" (PSSA).

The Centre was informed in April 2005 that another threat relating to mechanical shellfish harvesting may soon adversely affect the sustainable exploitation and integrated conservation of the marine resources and biodiversity in Mauritania.

The draft information document prepared in March 2005 by experts from numerous international organisations including the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, the Netherlands Committee for IUCN and the IUCN Regional Office for West Africa, received from the Rapporteur of the round table discussions organised by the Centre in November 2004, gives a great deal of detail on the principle itself of mechanical shellfish harvesting, which destroys the sea beds and interferes with their ecological balance.

World policies regarding mechanical shellfish harvesting are also presented in this document. Several companies have attempted to obtain a Sustainable Management Certificate from the international organisation certifying sustainable fishing, the "Marine Stewardship Council" (MSC). The MSC has refused to certify the Dutch company "Heiploeg Shellfish International" and its mechanical shellfish harvesting operations. The document points out that the company is intending to operate in Mauritania and is financing, for the moment, aid provided by The Netherlands Institute for Fisheries Research (formerly RIVO) to Mauritania for the setting up of Mauritanian sanitary infrastructures for shellfish in accordance with European Union Directive 91/492/EEC of 15/07/91.

The State Party must urgently apply Law 2000/025 constituting the Fishing Code in Mauritania, which prohibits any use of dragnets in the Mauritanian exclusive economic zone, as well as approve the application decree for Law 2000/45 constituting the framework law on the environment.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.7**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party for drawing up the *Development and Management Plan (DPM) for the Banc d'Arguin Park (PNBA)*,

whilst inviting the authorities concerned to set up management tools, which will be effective in the long term and form part of an initiative more centred on the "programme" approach;

4. Requests the State Party to complete, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and all the Park's partners, the *Development and Management Plan for the property*, following the recommendations of the round table discussions organised by the World Heritage Centre in November 2004;
5. Urges the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre for its comments all the documents concerning the *Environmental Impact Assessment studies for the mining operations drawn up by all the oil companies operating in the area around the PNBA*;
6. Calls upon the State Party to apply Law 2000/025 constituting the *Fishing Code in Mauritania*, which prohibits any use of dragnets in the Mauritanian exclusive economic zone, as well as to approve the application decree for Law 2000/45 constituting the *framework law on the environment*;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to sign the 1992 Convention allowing it to claim from the *International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPCF)*, as well as to submit a request to the *Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organisation*, responsible for measures aimed at improving the safety of international maritime transport and preventing pollution by ships, in order to obtain for the Banc d'Arguin Park the status of "particularly sensitive sea area" (PSSA);
8. Invites the State Party to consider the creation of a *Biosphere Reserve*, including the PNBA and its *Cap Blanc Satellite Reserve*, as well as other adjacent territories, recognised as being of major importance in the relationship between man and natural resources;
9. Calls upon the State Party and the World Bank to integrate in the *Public Sector Capacity Building Project*, one of whose sections will concern the environment, a pilot project for which the PNBA would constitute a focal point;
10. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2006**, a report on the progress of the implementation of the above-mentioned measures, so that the Committee may examine the state of conservation of the property at its 30th session, in 2006.

6. Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (Oman) (N 654)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1994

Criteria: N (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

24 COM VIII.25

28 COM 15B.8

International Assistance:

- The property has received a total of US\$ 95,000:
- Preparatory Assistance (1995), US\$ 15,000;
- Training Assistance (1999), US\$ 40,000;
- Training Assistance (2000), US\$ 40,000 (re-approval of 1999 request);
- Training Assistance (2003), US\$ 40,000

Previous monitoring mission(s):

IUCN mission in 2000

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

Poaching; Gas and oil exploration; Overgrazing by domestic stock; Boundary marking, Management Planning and management regime.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a copy of the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary Management Plan with a transmission letter by the State Party dated 5 October 2004 as well as a report by the State Party dated 22 February 2005 outlining the progress in implementation of the latter, including regulatory and monitoring measures, staff training and capacity development.

IUCN received information in 2005 indicating that in the past 8-year period (1996 – 2004) over 200 of the original 450 Oryx in the wild were lost to poachers. Reports note that poachers are from the adjacent communities, mainly the coastal regions, and that the illegal traffic is passing through the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E) or ultimately ending up there, directly in the hands of private collectors. A few poachers have been apprehended but this has not deterred the practice, which is ongoing. The large area of the sanctuary (2.75 million ha) plus the proliferation of oil industry tracks and four-wheel drive vehicles has made the detection of poachers difficult.

The Management Plan reveals that a new boundary and a zoning system have now been finalized. Under this plan, five zones are recognized: Special protection zone to be used as a refuge for wildlife; Controlled use zone which encompasses tracts of land containing other important biological resources; Buffer zone; Utility zone and Special use zone.

It is planned that the Management Plan will be implemented for a period of five years during which time the Ministry of Regional Municipalities,

Environment and Water Resources will map the zones more accurately and propose any necessary refinements. Land use policies and activities to be permitted in the sanctuary are set out according to the zone and sector. The last IUCN mission in 2000 had reported that poaching had been controlled due to increased enforcement and the creation of a regional coordinating body for Arabian Oryx involving UAE, the recent report of continued poaching of Arabian Oryx is discouraging.

The Management Plan demonstrates the State Party's commitment in establishing a sound management regime for the Arabian Oryx Sanctuary (AOS). The use of zones with prescribed activities within the reserve and sectoral policies provides a useful framework for defining management policies and practices. However, the Management Plan submitted is materially the same as the draft developed in the late 1990s and approved within the Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources (MRMEWR) in 2000.

Proposals for boundary marking and the development of the Ministry's management capacity and facilities within the property are supported, as is the approach to tourism development, interagency coordination and the proposal to study and control off-road vehicle access.

IUCN considered there are some aspects of the plan, which could be strengthened, including: the significance of World Heritage listing and the outstanding universal value of the property need to be more strongly emphasized within the plan. Maintaining or enhancing the outstanding universal value of the property should underpin management; the central role of oil, gas and mineral resources to Oman's economy is understood as is the fact that oil/gas and mineral concessions pre-dated the property's World Heritage listing. Further it is understood that the controls imposed seek to regulate these activities within the property. However, the current provisions within the plan which conditionally permit mining activity (exploration and production of oil, gas and minerals) in all zones of the property cannot be supported; Permissible uses in Zone 3 (Buffer Zone), which include oil, gas & mineral production, major industry, housing & settlement etc, are not compatible with World Heritage listing. All three Zones (1, 2 and 3) should remain within the area protected under Royal Decree, but the State Party submit a revised proposal aligning and limiting the World Heritage property to Zones 1 and 2 only; there is provision within the plan that allows Zone 5 (Special use zone) to override any of the other zones. It would be preferable to have these areas clearly identified, with appropriate uses stated; any proposals to change the boundaries of the property based on negotiations with oil, gas and mineral interests should be clearly identified; the proposal to permit public access on primary and secondary roads provided they

stay within 200 metres of roads should be closely monitored and reviewed if necessary; tourism proposals are appropriate provided they are acted upon within a reasonable timeframe and provided the Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources (MRMEWR) has the capacity and on-property presence to effectively manage these activities; the plan lacks adequate indicators and targets. It is recommended an action plan be developed showing prioritized action within the five year timeframe of the plan; the plan does not indicate the staffing and financial resources, both capital and recurrent, which will be required to implement the plan. It is recommended to include an assessment of the financial resources needed to implement the plan and a commitment by the State Party to fund the implementation of the plan.

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recall the policy positions by both the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) as well as the Shell Oil Company on no extraction in World Heritage areas.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.8 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for responding to its request and for submitting the Management Plan for the World Heritage property, as well as for its efforts to conserve the property and the recent progress reported;
4. Notes the slow progress of establishing an effective management regime for the property and that the positive intent of the Management Plan is not being fulfilled due to lack of funding;
5. Requests the State Party to clarify the progress under the Management Plan and current levels of financial support, as well as on current poaching activities, threats and underlying causes and actions on steps being taken to address these issues in light of recent reports of continued poaching and illegal trade in endangered species;
6. Further requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on the issues raised in relation to the Management Plan and its implementation by 1 February 2006 for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

7. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Areas (China) (N1039)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 2003

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 8C.4

28 COM 15B.9

International Assistance :

None.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Proposed dam construction within and adjacent to the World Heritage property.

Current conservation issues:

A brief report dated 31 January 2005 was received by the Secretariat from the State Party in response to the request of the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004). While the report acknowledges the existence of institutional and regulatory mechanisms governing construction work in China, it does not address the specific request of the Committee relating to the status of dams in Yunnan Province. It stressed that, according to existing Chinese law and regulations, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study as well as other assessment procedures should be undertaken and prove to be satisfactory prior to the submission of project implementation to the State Council of China for its approval. The report further notes that the hydropower scheme proposed by the electric companies has not been formally approved by the Central Government. Furthermore, the report provided assurance that the Chinese Government would duly perform its duties vis-à-vis the *World Heritage Convention*, and that the Secretariat will be informed of any last move in conformity with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*.

However, the Secretariat continues to receive alarming information on the progress of the proposed construction of dams within and adjacent to the World Heritage property. By letter of 13 April 2005, the Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO requested the Chinese authorities to provide to the Secretariat further information on any progress

concerning the assessment procedure of the project proposal foreseen by the authorities.

On 10 February 2005, IUCN received a letter signed by NGOs and concerned individuals in China, expressing grave concern over impending plans to build the previously suspended hydropower cascade on the Nu Jiang River. The letter indicates that these plans are already underway, and alleges that legal and institutional mechanisms provided for under Chinese law have not been addressed. There are concerns that the EIA process has not been adhered to. IUCN subsequently responded in a letter dated 25 February 2005 articulating similar concerns to the State Party. At the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), the State Party was invited to respond to the calls of academics, conservationists and scientists and consider letting the Nu Jiang River continue to flow naturally through and beside the World Heritage area.

Media reports indicate that government agencies concerned have “in principle” approved the Nu Jiang Hydro Development Scheme. However, so far there is neither official notice of the EIA process nor any explanations on how concerns raised by the public over river preservation, bio-diversity conservation and the protection of the rights of relocated people and the rich ethnic cultural diversity will be addressed. Reports indicate that the water ministry has declined to reveal which of the 13 dams would be built, but it is understood they would include the Liu Ku Dam, on which construction work has reportedly already begun.

IUCN notes additional reports indicating that there may be other planned hydroelectric plants within the vicinity of the World Heritage property (including the Tiger Leaping Gorge), which at the moment cannot be adequately verified due to incomplete and conflicting information. Information received by IUCN indicates that while only one dam the Bin Zhong Luo is planned within the World Heritage property, significant downstream impacts could also occur if the other dams are constructed. IUCN cannot however at this stage provide a comprehensive assessment of the planned construction given information which is available. IUCN reiterates its previous position that dam construction in Yunnan will have both direct and indirect impacts on the World Heritage property, including loss of flora and fauna due to construction and subsequent flooding of riparian and other ecosystems. Indirect impacts such as those potentially associated with dam construction activities, e.g. road development, inflow of construction workers and leakage of fuel/oil into riparian ecosystems etc; the relocation of a number of local communities, mainly ethnic hill people, is also of concern; and significant downstream, transboundary ecological impacts are possible in neighbouring countries south of China. IUCN notes that whilst concrete information is lacking, any dam construction within the World Heritage property would provide a case for inclusion

of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

At the time of finalizing this working document, no additional information has been received by the Secretariat.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.9**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004);
3. Reiterates its grave concern on the impacts that the proposed construction of dams could have on the outstanding universal value and integrity of this World Heritage property and downstream communities;
4. Request the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to organize a reactive monitoring mission to the property in 2006 to evaluate progress made on the conservation of the property as per recommendations of the Committee at the time of its inscription in 2003;
5. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment report for the proposed dam projects and the impact on the World Heritage property so as to enable the Committee to consider the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its 30th session in 2006.

8. Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1985

Criteria: N (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

None

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

World Heritage Centre visit, 29 to 30 March 2005.

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

None

Current conservation issues:

Over the past six months the World Heritage Centre has received many reports about the threat facing this property as a result of river water not being released to maintain the wetland ecosystem of the national park.

The Centre took up the matter with the State Party which responded by mentioning that proposals were under consideration for supply of water from alternative sources and that they would continue to closely monitor the status of the park.

As a Centre mission was already scheduled to visit the Manas National Park, the occasion was also used to visit the Keoladeo National Park. The mission visited the property from 29 to 30 March 2005 and a detailed mission report will be available at <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2005>. The mission noted that conservation issues at this wetland property had been adversely affected by a recent decision of the State Government of Rajasthan not to release any water from the Panchana Dam on the River Gambhir about 90 km upstream of the park, which is currently the only traditional and natural source of water for the park. The Keoladeo National Park (KNP) is an artificial wetland of 28.72 sq km which also contains grassland and woodland ecosystems. The survival of the wetland is dependent on monsoonal rains and substantially on the timely release of water from the Ajan Bund (about 500 metres from the Southwest boundary of the Park), which in turn receives water from the River Gambhir through the Panchana Dam. The annual requirement of water to maintain the ecological functions of the wetland is about 550 million cubic feet (mcf), while the minimum requirement is reportedly about 350 mcf. Over the last 15 years, an average about 330 mcf of water has been made available annually from the Ajan Bund between July and September. Without this water the survival of the wetland ecosystem and maintenance of the values of this property is doubtful.

The mission was informed that during 2004-2005 only 18 mcf water was available to the KNP and already the adverse impacts were becoming visible in the form of dense growth of grass and advance of woodland species into the wetland blocks of the Park. If no water is released during the coming monsoon months the values of this property will undoubtedly sustain considerable damage, potentially bringing into question its status as a World Heritage property. The mission was informed about alternative plans of the State Government to meet the water requirements of the park through a drinking water pipeline scheme which is nearing completion, and subsequently by the construction of a dedicated pipeline from the Chambal River subject to availability of funds from the Central Government. However, water from these sources is likely to be inert, being devoid of fish and other organisms which are crucial to sustaining life of the wetland ecosystem in the Keoladeo National Park.

The issue has attracted wide public and media attention in India and abroad. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) appointed by the Supreme Court of India (for the purposes of monitoring and ensuring compliance of the orders of the Court on the subject matters of wildlife and

forests) has also examined the Keoladeo issue after carrying out a property visit in March 2005 and has submitted a report to the Supreme Court for passing appropriate orders/directions in the matter. The report underscores the need to release water from the Panchana Dam to the Keoladeo National Park through Ajan Bund, which is absolutely necessary for its survival.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Expresses its serious concern over the current situation at the Keoladeo National Park (KNP) resulting from inadequate release of water to maintain the wetland ecosystem of the site;
3. Requests the State Party to prevail upon the State Government of Rajasthan to ensure that the required quantity of water is released to the KNP from the Panchana Dam between the months of July and September 2005 and regularly each year thereafter, and carry out essential repairs to the Ghana canal which carries water from the Ajan Dam to the Park, to avoid water losses during such transmission;
4. Further requests the State Party to submit a comprehensive report to the World Heritage Centre no later than **1 February 2006** on the state of conservation of the property, including in particular the steps taken to resolve the water crisis and providing information for each of the last ten years on:
 5. a) the extent of the wetland ecosystem within the Park;
 6. b) the species diversity and numbers of migratory birds and the resident nesting birds;
 7. c) the number of feral cattle grazing inside the Park;
 8. d) the number of tourists; and
 9. e) any other information considered relevant for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

9. Tropical Rainforest of Sumatra (Indonesia) (N 1167)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2004

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 14B.8

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Roads construction; Illegal logging; Large animal poaching; Encroachment by agriculture and settlements; Mining;

Current conservation issues:

On 26 December 2004 the tsunami of the Indian Ocean hit the island of Sumatra with devastating effects, especially in Banda Aceh where there was massive loss of life and complete destruction of infrastructure. Further earthquakes have affected the island since then. Preliminary reports received by the Secretariat indicated that the natural resources of the World Heritage property were not affected although unfortunately several staff members of the Nature Conservation Unit are reported missing and considerable damages has been caused to its infrastructure at the Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP). The Nature Conservation Unit's office in Banda Aceh has disappeared while the offices in Tapak Tuan have been damaged. The impact of the natural disaster on the coastal areas of the Gunung Lauser National Park remains to be assessed. Concern is rising in relation to the rebuilding of Aceh since the forests of the property potentially offer the easiest, quickest and cheapest source of timber for future development and housing needs. The natural disaster certainly makes the field conservation work in GLNP and the surrounding protected areas more challenging. IUCN has been informed, however, that the new President of Indonesia and his Minister for Forestry are giving a very high priority to addressing the issue of illegal logging throughout the country.

In a letter dated 24 January 2005, the World Heritage Centre offered assistance to the Indonesian authorities and requested them to provide further information concerning the state of conservation of this property. UNESCO also proposed to send a mission to assess the damage caused by the earthquake and tsunami disaster and identify urgent rehabilitation needs for the property.

In response, the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia submitted on 14 April 2005 an international assistance request to the Secretariat seeking Emergency Assistance from the World Heritage Fund to restore and improve basic management capacities in Gunung Leuser National Park and the Conservation Units located in Banda Aceh and Tapak Tuan. The major components of the project include human resource development, infrastructure and equipment, impact and management assessments and in particular property monitoring. This request has been transmitted to IUCN for review and comments.

At the time of the preparation of this document, only the summary provided in the international assistance request is available and the State Party has not submitted a state of conservation report and emergency action plan to address issues raised by the Committee in its decision adopted at its 28th session.

Considering the extremely difficult circumstances since 26 December 2004, it is not surprising that no report has been received. The Secretariat and IUCN expressed their heartfelt sympathies for the loss of life and destruction of infrastructure on the island of Sumatra to the State Party and the people directly affected by the natural disaster.

Both UNESCO and IUCN have set up Tsunami Task Forces which are providing technical support and expertise in relation to environmental management to countries affected by the natural disaster.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.9

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 14B.5, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004);*
3. *Expresses its deep sympathy for the loss of life and damage to infrastructure caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004 and subsequent earthquakes to the State Party and the people directly affected by the natural disaster;*
4. *Encourages the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to assist the State Party in preparing the emergency action plan for the property as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004);*
5. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, IUCN and other international partners to support the recovery of basic management capacities at the property by providing appropriate international assistance in collaboration with the competent national authorities;*
6. *Urges the State Party to ensure that the post-tsunami rehabilitation and infrastructure building activities in Sumatra do not have negative impact on the integrity of the property;*
7. *Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2006, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including the impact of the tsunami and earthquakes as well as the requested emergency action plan, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.*

10. East Rennell (Solomon Islands) (N 854)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List:
1998

Criteria: N (ii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.12

28 COM 15B.12

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint UNESCO/IUCN mission, 25 March to 12 April 2005.

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

None

Current conservation issues:

The UNESCO/IUCN mission from 25 March to 12 April 2005 noted that since inscription the New Zealand Government had initiated projects in ecotourism and small business development including the building of lodges, supply of canoes, motors, a vehicle, chainsaw and commencement of a bakery, restaurant, poultry and honey production. An Ecotourism Plan and an outline of a Resource Management Plan have also been produced, the former also covering Marovo Lagoon. This programme has been suspended since 2000, primarily because of civil unrest and political instability, leaving a number of projects pending completion. All other initiatives that had been started have stalled. A US\$ 20,000 project funded by the Japan Funds-in-Trust to assess the cultural and cultural landscape values of Rennell Island has also been cancelled since 2000 due to civil unrest.

The mission reviewed the following key issues:

a) *State of Conservation of the Property – Management Framework:* It was noted that there had been confusion regarding the general Management Framework and capacity within the property. The resignation in 2000 and non-reappointment of the department's World Heritage project officer, and confusion over the relative responsibilities of the Tourism Department and the National Museum, has resulted in a communicative breakdown. The outbreak of civil unrest in June 2000 had a profound impact on the administration and management of the property. The Solomon Islands' Government became dysfunctional and was unable to attend to its World Heritage responsibilities. There was little or no contact with East Rennell and no direct assistance was provided to the customary owners. Government control is slowly returning, and discussions held

with officials during the mission have been instrumental in bringing conservation issues back on to the Government's agenda. The mission further noted that the lack of Government support and the absence of any tangible World Heritage benefit to the majority of the customary owners has led to disappointment, confusion, and division within the community, with divergent management objectives. It was noted that there are no immediate threats to the natural environment of the land, lake and the surrounding seas. Increased use of motorized canoes has had so far minimal impact on the lake water quality. There have been several cyclones, but these are natural events from which the indigenous vegetation and wildlife recover. The cyclones have had severe short-term impacts on the local communities through destruction of buildings and gardens. There have been some suggestions of logging development, forest planting, mining and fisheries in or around the property, but none of these appears likely to occur in the near future.

- b) *Preparation of the National World Heritage Legislation:* There has been no attempt to further develop the draft national World Heritage Protection Bill or pass the legislation. A letter, dated 12 April 2005, from the Director of Tourism to the Director of the World Heritage Centre notes that his Department is now collaborating with the Department of Conservation and Environment to develop the legislation.
- c) *Resource Management Plan for East Rennell:* The mission verified that no specific progress had been made regarding the request of the 27th and 28th sessions of the Committee on progress in relation to the resource Management Plan. The 1998 draft Resource Management Plan outline has not been further developed. The above mentioned letter from the Director of Tourism notes that work is now being undertaken to prepare the Plan. Preparation of the Plan has also recently been included in the workplan of the Department of Environment and Conservation. There is no Management Plan for the property. Consequently, there is no framework for determining the World Heritage management objectives or for developing, prioritising and implementing projects for protection and sustainable resource management.

The mission further noted the need to redefine World Heritage status in lieu of unrealistic expectations among members of the local community in regard to rural development. It was anticipated that World Heritage status would bring immediate benefits, especially financial, to all the people. It was also expected there would be substantial improvements of schools, medical centres, transport infrastructure, housing and enhanced tourism. The absence of such

benefits has led to disappointment, confusion, suspicion, division and anger within the community.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.10

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.12**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the Solomon Islands National Museum for its coordination and support of the property visit by the World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to assess the state of conservation of East Rennell;
4. Commends the local communities for conserving the property during the civil unrest in the country;
5. Expresses its concerns regarding the lack of Government support to the property;
6. Requests that the State Party:
 - a) *Completes the draft World Heritage Protection Bill and passes it into legislation as soon as possible;*
 - b) *Prepares a World Heritage Management Plan for the East Rennell property as soon as possible;*
 - c) *Provides its support to customary owners for the management and conservation of the property; and*
 - d) *Increases the public awareness of the World Heritage property through appropriate promotional, advocacy and educational opportunities;*
7. Encourages the State Party to establish a single representative body within the East Rennell community for overseeing the East Rennell World Heritage Management Plan and assisting in coordinating any World Heritage projects or other related actions;
8. Requests the State Party to ensure endorsement and support of the Management Plan; and to establish a World Heritage sub-commission within the National Commission for UNESCO to oversee the implementation of the Management Plan and its associated projects;
9. Requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations by **1 February 2007** for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

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

11. Purnululu National Park (Australia) (N 1094)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List: 2003

Criteria: N (i) (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 8C.11

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Mining

Current conservation issues:

The State Party provided a report to the World Heritage Centre dated 8 March 2005 in response to the Committee's request. The State Party reports on the following key areas:

Possible impacts of mining activities: The State Party reported that the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act as the federal law, provides comprehensive protection for World Heritage and other significant heritage places in Australia. The report noted that the EPBC Act regulates any proposed activity that may have a significant impact on a World Heritage property, regardless of how far the proposed activity may be from the World Heritage property. It also noted that the Panton Platinum Palladium mining project mentioned in the IUCN evaluation report, which would have been located approximately 60 km west of the property, has not proceeded.

Addition of areas to the property: The report noted, as per the request of the Committee, that in December 2004 the Western Australian Government determined that 61,817ha of pastoral lands adjacent to the Purnululu Conservation Reserve, be added to the conservation reserve in 2015, when the current pastoral leases expire. It noted that negotiations are now under way to facilitate the early surrender of these lands. The State Party stated that these additions will strengthen the protection of the outstanding universal value for which Purnululu was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Funding and staffing of the property: The State Party reported that a range of upgrading and construction work at the property has been undertaken including,

car parks, water supply, and accommodation for Ranger staff, tourist facilities and facilities for traditional owners. These works were agreed in consultation with the indigenous customary owners. The report further noted that tourism management at the property has been undertaken involving the key tourist operators and the indigenous customary owners.

Managing the cultural values of Purnululu National Park: The State Party reported that the current Management Plan for the Park is under review and it is due for renewal in 2005. The report noted that this is a statutory obligation, and the revised Management Plan will incorporate cultural aspects of the property. The report further noted that the new plan may take two to three years to be completed, given the EPBC Act's comprehensive statutory planning and community consultation requirements.

IUCN noted that there are no issues or threats to the property associated with current or proposed mining activities. The only mining development of concern at the time of inscription has not proceeded. Legislative provisions and associated regulations appear adequate to deal satisfactorily with any future threats from mining impacts. It noted that the intention to add pastoral lease land to the Conservation Reserve is positive and consistent with IUCN recommendations for diversifying the protected areas and improving the buffering of the World Heritage property. There are impacts from incursions of stock from unfenced surrounding farmed lands, requiring constant management vigilance and intervention. There has been considerable progress in the provision of improved visitor facilities, and some good developments in co-operative management with tourism operators. IUCN further noted that the report from the State Party did not provide information on the required increases to staffing and resourcing of the property as was raised by the 27th session of the Committee (UNESCO, 2003). IUCN is concerned that additional infrastructure development will place additional demands on recovery. It stressed the importance of giving consideration to adding the Purnululu Conservation Reserve to the National Park since the management regime of the reserve is consistent with that of the Park. Further protection of surrounding land to improve the buffering of the World Heritage area should be undertaken where the opportunity exists, including watershed catchments impacting the property and staff levels should be increased to ensure effective management of the World Heritage values of the property.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.11

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,**

2. Recalling its Decision 27 COM 8C.11, adopted at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003),
3. Commends the State Party for its continued commitment to address the conservation concerns of the property and for providing a detailed report of ongoing and planned measures;
4. Recommends that the State Party take all the necessary measures to further protect surrounding land and improve the buffering of the World Heritage property where the opportunity exists and consider adding the Purnululu Conservation Reserve to the National Park;
5. Further recommends that the State Party provides adequate staffing and financing levels to ensure effective management of the property and updates the Management Plan of the Park, including sustaining traditional Aboriginal communities in the Park, an approach to ways of sustaining intangible qualities, and an appraisal of approaches to ethnographic, sociological and oral recording of intangible and tangible cultural traditions;
6. Requests the State Party to submit by 1 February 2008 a report on the progress made on the conservation status of the Park to the World Heritage Centre assessing the specific issues raised above, for examination by the Committee at its 32nd session in 2008.

12. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1999

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.8

28 COM 15B.10

International Assistance :

US\$ 15,000 as preparatory assistance in 1995/96 and US\$ 30,000 as technical co-operation in 2001/2002.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

IUCN mission in January 2004

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

Mining; Absence of a co-ordinating agency; Inadequate financing; Absence of a finalized strategic or Management Plan; Threats posed by devolution of powers; Absence of physically designated Park boundaries; Security limitations; Development threats; Exploitation of marine resources.

Current conservation issues:

At the time of writing this report, the Secretariat had not received a formal response from the State Party concerning a progress report on follow-up action to address the issues raised by the IUCN mission as requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004).

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.10**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not respond to the specific issues requested;
4. Requests the State Party to urgently submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2006**, a progress report on the achievements made to follow-up on the recommendations of 2004 IUCN mission, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

13. Tubbataha Reef Marine Park (Philippines) (N 653)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1993

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.11
28 COM 15B.18

International Assistance:

A total of US\$70,000 was provided to the property from the World Heritage Fund.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Excess exploitation of marine resources; Destructive fishing.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted the international assistance request as per recommendation of the Committee at its 28th session.

IUCN reviewed this request submitted by the Philippines authorities in January 2005 for the organization of a Sub-regional Forum on Illegal Fishing. It did not support the request in the form presented at that time due to a lack of focus and clarity in the proposed activity, but noted that the overall objective was of high importance. IUCN provided its

comments and suggestions and offered its support for improving the request and proposed activity.

IUCN is of the view that the sub-regional workshop should seek to identify common ground with neighbouring countries encountering similar issues and focus on the possibility of establishing a regional network of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) within the Sulu Sea region, with regional monitoring and compliance mechanisms. The workshop should therefore bring together MPA managers, fisheries specialists, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) specialists, local fishing companies, the navy or coast guard and possibly some experts from the region that could provide information on their experiences. The goal of the workshop should be to bring together those with common interests in order to raise awareness of the issue and build momentum for tackling it. The workshop could develop a Tubbataha Declaration or Statement on illegal fishing and seek to spread this message widely.

Based on these recommendations of IUCN, the Secretariat suggested that the Philippine authorities redraft the international assistance request for further review.

By the time of preparing this working document, the Secretariat had not received the reformulated international assistance request.

Draft Decision : 29 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.18**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party has begun plans and sought international assistance to organise a Sub-regional Workshop on Illegal Fishing in the Sulu Sea;
4. Urges the State Party to work with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to further develop and refine these plans for the Workshop and submit a reformulated international assistance request so that the Chairperson of the Committee may consider its approval at the earliest possible time;
5. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in Decision **28 COM 15B.18**, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

14. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Vietnam) (N 951 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2003

Criteria: N (i)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.19

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Negative impacts of a road construction project in the World Heritage site; Illegal logging and forest crimes; Lack of a visitor Management Plan.

Current conservation issues:

A report on the state of conservation of the property was submitted by the State Party on 21 January 2005 as requested by the Committee its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). The report outlines measures taken by the authorities to mitigate the negative impacts of a road construction project. Eight measures have been undertaken in regard to impact reduction, including education and awareness programmes; waste collection measures; tree planting; embankment and ditch system construction; planting of grass; maintenance of the naturally recovered vegetation; law enforcement and involvement of local people in forest protection.

The report also notes that measures to stop illegal actions and to enforce the existing law in Quang Binh province have been strengthened, with programmatic initiatives such as the Inter-border Conservation Cooperation funded by the World Bank through several workshops. These initiatives are receiving backing from key organizations including WWF, which is promoting and supporting the implementation of conservation activities in specific localities.

The report further notes that a plan is being developed to strengthen the management of the buffer zone by the Quang Binh People's committee. The plan intends to clarify the different responsibilities of the Central Vietnam Government and the Quang Binh People's Committee and includes conservation activities for which the German government is apparently considering providing financial assistance up to USD 12.6 millions.

Other measures reported by the State Party relate to the visitor Management Plan. Efforts are currently being undertaken by the management board of the Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park to effectively manage the different types of tourists visiting the

property. An analysis on tourism needs, diversification of activities and awareness programmes has also been launched.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.14

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.19** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Noting that measures were taken by the authorities to mitigate the negative impacts of the road construction, including education and awareness programmes; waste collection measures; tree planting; embankment and ditch system construction; planting of grass; maintenance of the naturally recovered vegetation; law enforcement and involvement of local people in forest protection,
4. Further noting that other positive initiatives, such as activities for possible transboundary cooperation with Lao P.D.R as well as programmes for buffer zone management and tourist management are on-going,
5. Congratulates the State Party on its positive response to the request of the Committee at its 28th session and for its efforts for the conservation of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to regularly report to the World Heritage Centre on the state of conservation of the property.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

15. Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Bialowieza Forest (Belarus/Poland) (N 33-627)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979; extended in 1992

Criteria: N (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.14

28 COM 15B.20

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint IUCN/UNESCO mission 15 to 20 March 2004.

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

Illegal logging and excess commercial timber harvesting (Belarus); Uncoordinated initiatives between the two States Parties; Forest disease resulting from bark beetle infestation; Effect on forest biomes through drainage of agricultural land on the Belarus side and a reservoir on the Polish side; Presence of an artificial fence along the international boundary impeding large mammal movement.

Current conservation issues:

Following the joint IUCN/UNESCO mission to Belovezhskaya Pushcha / Bialowieza Forest from 15 to 20 March 2004, specific follow-up actions were requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) (**28 COM 15B.20**). The States Parties reports dated 3 March 2005 (Poland) and 4 March 2005 (Belarus), were submitted to the World Heritage Centre and transmitted to IUCN for review.

IUCN noted that the Polish report, indicates improvement in the conservation of the property and natural ecosystems on both sides of the border. The meeting in March 2004 provided for the creation of a coordinating council for the transboundary property, although this council has yet to be constituted. A substitute consultative council is currently coordinating scientific issues for the property and has been meeting regularly, with the next meeting planned for May 2005. The report further indicates that joint actions aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of the entire property have commenced, including public awareness activities.

Concerning the State Party report from Belarus, IUCN noted that the area of Belovezhskaya has been enlarged from 88,700 to 152,200 hectares with the core area alone increased from 15,600 to 30,000 hectares. All forest management activity has been banned within 500 metres of the core zone.

In 2004, the first stage of forest Management Planning was implemented with the second stage scheduled for 2005. This planning process is expected to result in a forest Management Plan outlining three activities of priority importance: conservation and restoration of old growth and disturbed forest ecosystems (including bark beetle infestation); protection, regulation and restoration of the European Bison population, and the restoration of the hydrological conditions within the forest. In April 2004, the two States Parties delegations met at a meeting in Brussels to agree on a common planning approach. It is hoped that this will lead to the implementation of a common Management Plan. Further details were discussed in March 2005 in Bialowieza (Poland). Other initiatives on this issue have taken place concurrently, including an agreement on cooperation on joint scientific studies as well as consultative meetings between the two parties.

In relation to the recommendations of the 2004 mission regarding the removal of the fence along the national boundaries, the Belarusian authorities report that during the first stage, the fence would be removed along areas where the migration paths of animals are concentrated. Information exchange between the two countries is reported to be constrained by the closure of the Polish side of the border.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that the removal of the fence to allow for the migration of animals still remains contentious although the States Parties are intent on replacing the old fence with alternative means of border protection. IUCN is however concerned about the reported destruction of the primeval forests of Belovezhskaya Pushcha (Belarus) and a comprehensive report of activities currently taking place within the forest, particularly in relation to forest extraction should be requested, as the property was inscribed principally for the presence of Europe's last remaining primeval forests.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.20 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commending the States Parties of Poland and Belarus for the preliminary efforts undertaken in attaining joint co-management of the property and inclusive consultative processes;
4. Encourages both States Parties to continue the ongoing efforts on joint cross border initiatives;
5. Urges the States Parties of Belarus and Poland to adopt open participatory processes that involve all relevant stakeholders;
6. Requests the States Parties of Belarus and Poland to provide a report on the conservation status as well as levels of logging, trends over time, and conversion of primeval forests to plantation by 1 February 2006 for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

**16. Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks (Canada)
(N 304 bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1984 and 1990

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

21 COM VII.37
23 BUR IV.28

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Mining

Current conservation issues:

The State Party provided a report on the state of conservation of the property dated 10 February 2005. It notes that the Cheviot coal mine project has been developed and is now operating outside of the Jasper National Park component of the World Heritage property. The State Party acknowledges that the approval of the mine and a 22km haul road for transporting coal from the mine to the processing location at another mine has been controversial and that the Alberta Environmental Appeals Board considered an appeal against the development of the haul road (24-25 January 2005) and is expected to announce their ruling in March 2005.

In addition to the State Party report, IUCN received in May 2004 information regarding the Cheviot coal mine near Jasper National Park, Alberta, which continues to be a controversial issue since it was first proposed in 1996. The report noted that while the previous Cheviot proposal was not developed due to its poor economics and public opposition, the parent companies (Fording Canadian Coal Trust and Teck Cominco) obtained an Alberta provincial permit for a new project covering a larger area, taking in the McLeod River valley. The reports indicated that the company and the Alberta Government have not, to date, undertaken an environmental impact assessment or any holding public hearings.

This information reaffirms the State Party report regarding the construction of the 22 Km Coal haul road. It is reported that in June 2004, construction had commenced and in August 2004 there were ongoing legal challenges to this mine and associated development which were expected to be heard in early 2005.

The State Party also reported on the mountain pine beetle epidemic throughout the range of the lodgepole pine forests in the province of British Columbia. It attributes the epidemic to the mild weather conditions and abundant habitat allowing the beetles to flourish and multiply rapidly. It is reported that mitigation measures are currently in place to address the potential health and habitat damage resulting from the beetle infestation.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,**

2. Commends the State Party for providing a report clarifying the status of the Cheviot Mine in Jasper Park and beetle infestation throughout the mountain ranges of British Columbia;
3. Welcomes the efforts by the State Party to enact mitigation measures against potential damage by the beetle infestation;
4. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2006** an updated report on the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks including the outcome of the legal process on the Cheviot mine project, clarification on the status of the mine particularly regarding proposals for a new project covering a larger area, and the status of the beetle epidemic for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

17. Miguasha National Park (Canada) (N 225)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1999

Criteria: N (i)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

23 COM A.1

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

None

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a report on 24 February 2005 regarding the development of a project to establish a toxic waste incinerator in Belledune (New Brunswick) some 36km from Miguasha National Park. The report notes that petitions for an environmental assessment under the transboundary provisions of the Federal Canadian Environmental Assessment Act were received by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency in October 2003 on the basis of potential adverse transboundary environmental effects. The Federal Court concluded that the Canadian Environmental Act does not apply in this instance because the facility was already near completion and does not constitute a "project" under the act. It was further ruled that a Federal panel review was not appropriate in this case.

The report notes that the Government of Canada is appealing against the Federal court decision because of the uncertainty it created regarding the application

of the transboundary provisions of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. The State Party has undertaken to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the outcome of this judicial process.

IUCN noted that the toxic waste facility was originally subject to Canadian approval processes within the province of New Brunswick. References by the State Party on proposed oil and gas exploration in the Miguasha National Park buffer zone were also noted.

The State Party requested an IUCN mission to the property to be carried out prior to the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Commends the State Party for providing a report on the current situation in Miguasha National Park and for its ongoing efforts on the conservation of the property,
3. Requests that the State Party keep the Centre informed of progress on the conservation status of the park and more specifically on the status and potential impacts of the Belledune toxic waste incinerator project as well as measures taken to mitigate adverse impacts;
4. Notes with concern references by the State Party to proposed oil and gas exploration in the Miguasha National Park buffer zone and requests a report on the status of this proposal and its potential impact on the property;
5. Further requests the State Party to provide by **1 February 2006** to the World Heritage Centre a progress report on these issues for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

18. Danube Delta (Romania) (N 588)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1991

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

24 BUR I.44
24 COM I.21

International Assistance :

1999: US\$30,000, Training seminar

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

Mining pollution (accidental cyanide pollution);

Current conservation issues:

UNESCO and IUCN have been informed of a Ukrainian navigation project on the Bystroe Canal located within the UNESCO Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, on the Ukrainian side of the border. Although the Canal does not pass through the Romanian side (which is a World Heritage property), likely downstream impacts are projected. Works on the deep-water canal connecting the river Danube with the Black Sea began in 2004 with the first phase having been completed in September 2004, subsequent phases are scheduled for completion in 2008. The canal is being promoted as an alternative navigable route to the Sulina Canal built over 100 years ago on Romanian territory. However, it cuts through the core zone of the MAB-Reserve and the Kyliiske Mouth, a Ramsar site.

Preliminary information received so far indicates threats and potential impacts on ecosystem, habitat and species within the Danube Delta. Experts warned that among all the alternative routes analyzed for the projected deepwater canal, the Bystroe version "represented the worst alternative". The acceleration of water flow in the canal is projected to drain water out of the Delta, drastically reducing its water level, intensifying evaporation and wreaking havoc within the marshland habitat. Potential other effects include oil and noise pollution on the waterways produced by ships using the canal.

A number of conferences and meetings have already taken place seeking to redress this issue and reducing tensions between the two States Parties. On 21 September 2004 at the initiative of the Romanian authorities, an official consultation was held at the Geneva United Nations Environmental Programme Office with the representatives of the international programmes and agreements (Ramsar Convention, Bern Convention, IUCN, UNESCO-MAB etc.) as well as Ukraine and Romania. A follow-up meeting was held at the Bureau of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme at its 18th session (UNESCO, 25-29 October 2004) which reviewed the situation with regard to the transboundary Biosphere Reserve (SC-04/CONF.204/INF.5). From 14-16 March 2005, a preparatory meeting for the International Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Danube Delta" took place in Kiev, Ukraine. The subsequent conference is scheduled to be held in May 2005 in Odessa (Ukraine) to provide a framework for the widening debate and to address the sustainable development of the Danube Delta in a wider perspective.

The two States Parties concerned are keen on resolving this issue through a series of consultative meetings and workshops using a number of available international agreements and conventions such as the ESPOO, Bern, and RAMSAR conventions to which

both are signatories, as well as UNESCO's MAB Programme.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.18

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**;
2. Recalling its Decision 24 COM I.21 adopted at its 24th session (Cairns, 2000);
3. Notes with concern the information on the Bystroe Canal project located in the Ukrainian part of the transboundary UNESCO Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania/Ukraine) and its potential impact for the Danube Delta ecosystem, and the World Heritage property of the Danube Delta (Romania);
4. Requests the authorities of Ukraine to fully respect the World Heritage Convention, in particular Article 6.3 and not to take any action to threaten the values and integrity of a property located on the territory of another State Party to this Convention;
5. Further requests both States Parties of Romania and Ukraine to provide to the World Heritage Centre an updated report, including any new decisions related to the canal project and other development issues, as well as transboundary collaboration, by **1 February 2006** for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

19. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1996

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

International Assistance :

1999: US\$30,000, Training seminar

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.19
28 COM 15B.22

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO mission 1998; UNESCO / IUCN mission 2001.

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

Pollution; Excess timber harvesting; Gas and oil pipeline; Excess fishing.

Current conservation issues:

Following the decisions of the Committee and as a follow-up to the recommendations of the 2001 UNESCO/IUCN mission and the high-level mission

to Moscow (November 2003), the State Party provided a report dated 27 January 2005. The report outlines key actions implemented on the following issues:

Level of implementation of the Federal Law "On the Protection of Lake Baikal": It is reported that a draft of the Russian Federation Government order has been elaborated with the aim of adjusting the border to the central ecological zone of the Baikal Natural Area with the borders of the World Heritage property. The draft is currently under consideration.

Protection programmes: It is reported that a number of ongoing initiatives are being realised to protect the Lake Baikal and the Baikal natural area. The State Party informed that these measures promote full realization of the federal law on the protection of Lake Baikal. It is hoped that these measures will eventually decrease environmental pollution levels, eliminate negative impacts of caving processes and protect the population and national economy units from the waters negative impact.

Global Ecological Fund (GEF) Project: Key results emanating from this project are: the creation of a common basis wildlife conservation, for affiliation of the efforts of the different interested parties, groups and sectors of the community; as a result of the implementation of more than 380 sub-projects. The investment climate in the field of nature protection has been improved; a small grants programme has been implemented ensuring community support for project implementation. A number of concrete measures were undertaken to conserve species and their habitats, create mechanisms and tools of wildlife conservation, and ensure coordination and environmental activity.

Ecological monitoring: A programme on the state ecological monitoring has been elaborated in collaboration with experts from 21 organizations and will work jointly with 39 organizations that are carrying out monitoring activities. Empirical data obtained from the different organizations will be compiled into a single database.

International Cooperation with the State Party of Mongolia: The Russian-Mongolian Agreement on protection and transboundary water use has been implemented. Progress has been made in rational water use and protection from pollution and depletion of water bodies; analysis and assessment of their waters quality and prediction of the transboundary water status. There have been several follow-up initiatives between the Russian and Mongolian authorities relating to the Selenga River basin including workshops and seminars to discuss emerging issues.

Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill: The first stage of the 10-year integrated programme for the re-profiling of the Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill reported last year,

will be completed in 2005. State authorities and the Ministry of Industry and Sciences have already granted approval. Stages two and three are expected to be finalised in 2008 and 2010 respectively.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information regarding a planned Eastern Siberia – Pacific Ocean oil pipeline through the Lake Baikal region. The reports indicate that the Russian oil company Transneft is reconsidering its plan to build an oil pipeline through the seismically active Severomuisky Range near Lake Baikal. IUCN notes that there are fragile ecosystems in the Lake Baikal basin. A number of NGO's and concerned individuals have raised concerns that the pipeline and its proposed route through the Severomuisky Range could be damaged by earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, and other geological events which would cause both considerable economic losses and irreversible pollution of the Lake Baikal watershed.

No formal response to the oil pipeline construction has been received from the State Party and the World Heritage Centre sent a reminder letter dated 25 April 2005 to the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation on this matter.

Although the details of this construction are not clear, preliminary information indicates that plans for the construction are already underway and are progressing rapidly, with substantial financial backing having been guaranteed by the Japanese government and banks. The Committee, at its 28th session, raised concerns regarding the potential impact of oil and gas pipelines on the outstanding universal value of the property, considering that such a proposal should undergo a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment.

Both The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received in April 2004 new information related to the project to speed up the construction of the Eastern Siberia – Pacific Ocean Pipeline. The original oil pipeline project proposing that the pipe would run just a few kilometers away from the shoreline of Baikal (Angarsk-Nakhodka, passing to the north of the Lake) and through the World Heritage property, was rejected by the Federal Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Commission, which happened in October 2003, Transneft, the company that was developing the project, came up with an alternative that moved the pipeline beyond the borders of the World Heritage property "Lake Baikal". The EIA of the "alternative" variant started on 19 December 2003 under Order 1130 of the Natural Resources Ministry and in four months ended with a positive verdict of the Federal EIA Commission; despite the fact that the pipeline crosses a large tributary of the lake, the river Verkhnyaya (Upper) Angara, and despite reported complaints by different NGO's on numerous violations of EIA legislation committed in the course of mandatory public hearings of the project. In September 2004 Greenpeace and a number of other

national and regional Russian NGOs including WWF, Green Cross, Social and Ecological Union requested to review the public Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the pipeline, Transneft refused to provide the project materials for public EIA to all of the above organizations.

On 23 November 2004, more than 20 Russian national and regional environmental and human-rights NGOs appealed in an open letter to the President of the Russian Federation bringing to his attention numerous violations of the legislation committed by the Federal Service for Ecological, Technological and Atomic Supervision (FSETAN or Rostekhnadzor) and Transneft. The letter asked the President to instruct appropriate governmental bodies to run an investigation. Transneft agreed to meet with some of the leading Russian NGOs (Greenpeace, WWF, Social and Ecological Union and Moscow-based Ecojuris). The meeting took place on 2 December 2004, where Transneft's Vice President accepted a list of demands of NGOs including access to all project papers that should be available to the public under the law, due consideration of public recommendations to the project and full involvement of NGOs besides Public Ecology at the stage of EIA of the Technical and Economic Aspects of the construction of the pipeline (Stage II of the Feasibility Study). However, the company has not yet delivered on any of those demands. Despite numerous protests of the public and orders of the Prosecutor's Office, on 31 December, 2004, the Prime Minister signed Governmental Resolution No. 1737-r that defined the final route of the VSTO pipeline, i.e. Taishet (Irkutsk Region) – Skovorodino (Amur Region) – Perevoznaya (Primorye Region).

Despite broad opposition and incomplete planning and design process, construction works have begun. In an interview of 17 February 2005 to Moscow Times the President of Transneft said that "the project has started and over 4,000 workers are already working along the pipeline route". This was confirmed later on by Vice Governor of the Primorye Region who said there was a strict order from the federal government to put the oil terminal on the Sea of Japan by August – September 2005. While the oil pipeline is being built, an increased volume of oil will be transported by rail. This is even more dangerous to the integrity of Lake Baikal as the existing railway system runs less than 200 metres away from the shoreline.

The route now proposed for the Eastern Siberia – Pacific Ocean pipeline can be characterized by complicated geological, hydrological and seismic conditions. On the major part of the route, the designers have planned an underground type of the pipeline; above the ground method will be used only on 583 km of the route. On the way, the pipeline will cross over 435km of bogs and marsh lands, over 1,000km of bedrock and semi-bedrock terrain areas, areas of permafrost, landslide- and mudflow-prone

areas, elevated terrain with steep slopes. The route runs over 174 small and large rivers, 43 roads and 39 railways. The construction area of the Taishet-Perevoznaya pipeline crosses rivers of basins of Angara and Lena rivers, Lake Baikal and river Amur. The pipe crosses a large number of water streams, largest of which include Upper Angara, Kirenga, Vitim, Olekma, Zeya, Bureya, Amur and Ussury rivers.

The oil pipeline crosses seismically active areas there geological divides run perpendicular to one another. The length of areas where there are on-going geological processes (with seismic activity of 5 to 9 on the Richter scale) is 2,585.6km or 66% of the total length of the pipeline. The on-going geological processes may make construction and operation of the pipeline much more complicated.

The pipeline route runs through a mountainous landscape presenting incredibly complex geo-engineering conditions (a high level of initial seismic activity of up to 9 degrees on the Richter scale in combination with a high concentration of active tectonic faults, widespread areas of permafrost, and considerable risk of mudflows and avalanches). As yet, oil pipelines have never been constructed in such difficult natural conditions in the Russian Federation. At the same time, the state of existing "Transneft" pipelines in Irkutsk Oblast are a serious cause for concern: over the period 1993-2001 six major oil spills, with a total approximate volume of 42 thousand tons of crude oil, were officially registered and made public (letter from the Irkutsk Regional Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation 23.08.02 # 4-9-758).

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.22** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004);
3. Commending the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia for efforts made in enhancing their co-operation in implementing a plan to reduce sources of pollution occurring in the Selenga River Basin according to the request of the 28th Committee;
4. Notes with serious concern new information received on the construction of the Eastern Siberia – Pacific Ocean pipeline;
5. Regrets that the State Party did not provide an update of the status of the planned oil pipeline and on potential /or given impacts to the integrity of Lake Baikal;
6. Urges the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about the details of the

pipeline construction project and requests the authorities to take measures to eliminate all direct and indirect threats to the World Heritage property;

7. Notes the serious concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposed new route for the oil and gas pipeline on the outstanding universal value of the property and considers that according to paragraph 83.2 of the Operational Guidelines any pipeline development crossing the watershed of Lake Baikal and main tributaries would make the case for inscription of Lake Baikal on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Requests the State Party to provide as a matter of urgency, detailed information on the construction of the Eastern Siberia-Pacific Ocean pipeline and to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to the property;
9. Further requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on the situation to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2006**, and the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to report on the outcome of the mission for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006. Based on this information, the Committee may wish to decide to inscribe Lake Baikal on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

20. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1996; extended in 2001

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.20
28 COM 15 B.27

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to the property 17 to 21 May 2004.

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

Illegal Salmon fishing; Gold mining; Gas pipeline; Development of a geothermal power station; Forest fires; Boundary changes; Construction of the Asso-Palana road.

Current conservation issues:

Following the Committee's decision and the recommendations by the IUCN/UNESCO mission to

the property in May 2004, a report was received from the Ministry for Natural Resources dated 27 January 2005.

The report acknowledges salmon poaching as significant in the specially protected areas of Yuzhno-Kamchatsky Zakaznik, the Natural Parks of Yuzhno-Kamchatsky and Nalychevsky, although remedial environmental protection measures and public awareness programmes have gone some way towards mitigating the problem. With regard to gold mining, high mining costs and falling world prices are attributed to the complete halt in mining activities within the specially protected natural areas. As regards the boundary issue, the Kamchatka regional authorities have advised that they do not intend to redefine the boundaries of Bystrinsky Nature Park again since redefinition by a resolution of the Governor of the Region in 1996 effectively excluding gold mining from within these boundaries. It is reported that a 418 km long gas pipeline has been approved and partially completed with a tentative date of completion scheduled for 2006. The report however does not provide an indication of the extent to which this pipeline and associated developments impact on the World Heritage property. The State Party also reported on the construction of a geothermal electric power plant near the volcano Mutnovsky, which is reported to have been approved on the basis of an Environmental Impact Assessment. The Committee is informed that neither volcano Mutnovsky nor the construction property is within the World Heritage property.

Concerning the conservation status of the Natural Park "Bystrinsky", it is reported that only a small area of forest fires occurred in the park. The State Party reported that hunting within the park is not prohibited and is in line with the traditional practices of the area's indigenous people and Russian settlers.

The State Environmental Expert Committee considered the environmental impact assessment to be adequate in relation to the construction of the Esso-Palana highway through the national park. There are no plans to construct a new road; however this road will be upgraded to year round use.

IUCN noted that while the State Party reported on a number of aspects of the World Heritage property management, there remain a number of other areas, which the 2004 mission highlighted that have not been addressed. These include: improvements in staffing levels; tourism planning and development; overall access planning for the property including issues in relation to the Esso – Palana Road; Management Planning including the completion of Management Plans for the remaining two protected areas comprising the World Heritage property (Klyuchevskoy in 2005 and South Kamchatka 2005/6); improved interagency cooperation on timber and logging concessions in the property.

Salmon Poaching on the Kamchatka peninsula including the protected areas forming the World Heritage property is reported to be on the upsurge. In a report appearing on the BBC Earth Report in Mid 2004, it is noted that trade in Salmon caviar has attained disproportionately high levels with allegations of corruption by senior law enforcement officers. The increase is allegedly fueled by readily accessible markets in Japan, by far the biggest foreign buyer, with other regional centres in Asia and Europe also reported to fuel the illegal trade. Thousands of small-scale poachers are reportedly taking immature salmon from the rivers in the Kamchatka region with a consequent sharp decline in salmon numbers. A number of other concerns regarding the integrity of the World Heritage property were already highlighted by the 2004 World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission.

The State Party still needs to respond to the specific recommendations of the 2004 mission on the growing and challenging problem of Salmon Poaching within the peninsula. Poaching occurs both within and outside of the property and impacts the ecological processes for salmon on the peninsula as a whole. The State Party should elaborate on efforts taken to improve collaboration between the Aginskoye mine and the park authorities and ensure that the mine operates according to best mining practice and latest technology.

Despite the oil pipeline lying well outside of the property, this infrastructure has the potential to significantly disrupt salmon spawning on rivers flowing from the property to the sea. The State Party should take all measures to mitigate the environmental impacts of the project. IUCN also noted that whilst the 2004 fire season was a mild one, the State Party should undertake research to review natural fire patterns in the property. Based on this research more detailed fire Management Planning should be undertaken to manage natural and human induced fire within the property.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,*
2. *Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.27** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Commends the State Party for its updated information on the range of threats to the property and efforts to address these following the recommendations of the mission;*
4. *Welcomes the State Party's confirmation that there will be no further boundary changes to Bystrinsky Zakaznik to avoid future mining operations and reinforces its opposition to any future mining activity being considered within the property;*

5. *Encourages* the State Party to ensure that any pipeline construction be undertaken giving due consideration to mitigate environmental impact on the peninsula's ecology and the property upstream; measures should be implemented to maintain the integrity of rivers crossed by the pipeline for salmon spawning and environmental impacts of the project should be closely monitored;
6. *Requests* the State Party to respond specifically to the 2004 World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission recommendations regarding efforts to improve interagency cooperation on poaching; efforts to increase overall staffing levels (which have increased but remain inadequate to combat poaching); and the need to review fines and penalties for poaching;
7. *Urges* the State Party to address the serious concerns regarding the impacts of the Esso - Palana road on the property, raised by the 2004 mission and specifically to report on progress to implement an effective monitoring and control programme, to establish inspection stations to check poaching; to ensure that best possible standards of road construction and maintenance are applied and that no subsidiary roads are constructed from this road;
8. *Requests* the State Party to report on progress towards the completion of the Management Plans for all components of the property by **1 February 2006** for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

21. Durmitor National Park (Serbia and Montenegro) (N 100)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1980

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

9 COM p. 14-16

15 COM 8 p. 3-4

20 COM p. 9-10

International Assistance :

US\$ 9000 (1981) for expert advice; US\$ 50,000 (1988) for equipment; US\$ 20,000 (1988) for equipment; US\$ 38,000 (1989) for equipment;

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO mission 1996; joint UNESCO/IUCN mission 17 to 21 January 2005.

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

Proposed dam project on the Tara River; boundary issues; ski development; logging.

Current conservation issues:

Threats to Durmitor National Park by a hydropower plant project were already discussed at the World Heritage Committee in 1985, when the Committee identified the property "for possible inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger" and noted "This property had been threatened by the construction of a dam on the Tara River, however, due to public pressure from within and without Yugoslavia, this proposal had been cancelled. The Committee noted its satisfaction that this threat had now been removed and congratulated the Yugoslav authorities on making the best use of the *Convention* to support efforts to protect this property."

UNESCO and IUCN were informed again in 2004 of a hydropower project Buk Bijela (HPBB). During a meeting at UNESCO Headquarters on 19 November 2004, the Director-General of UNESCO and the President of Serbia and Montenegro, Mr S. Marovic, discussed the proposed construction of a dam to be built on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its potential impact on the World Heritage property of Durmitor National Park and the Tara River Basin Biosphere Reserve. The Director-General agreed to the request to send an expert mission to review the situation. Furthermore, at a meeting on 10 December 2004 held in Tirana, Albania, the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr B. Paravac, and the Director-General of UNESCO also discussed the HPBB project and they agreed that the proposed mission to Serbia and Montenegro should also meet with the relevant authorities and organizations of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The official letter of 16 December 2004 from the State Party of Serbia and Montenegro, formally invited the international expert mission.

The joint UNESCO/IUCN mission (WHC, UNESCO Venice, IUCN International and IUCN Regional Office) was undertaken from 17 to 21 January 2005. The full report of the mission is available on-line at <http://whc.unesco.org/archive.2005>. The mission was informed of the HPBB project from different sources and at various meetings with a wide variety of stakeholders, including a round table discussion entitled "Protection and Valorisation of the Tara River" organized by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning of the Republic of Montenegro, Public Enterprise "National Parks of Montenegro", and the Institute for the Protection of Nature, on 17 January 2005. The mission reviewed a range of relevant documents including the Environmental Study (ES) "Hydro Power Plants Buk Bijela and Srbinje": Analysis of Environmental Impacts of Hydro Power Plants (Belgrade, March

2000) jointly submitted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning of the Republic of Montenegro and the State Party, Serbia and Montenegro.

The mission noted the complex history of the project, starting in 1957 with intermittent phases. Despite the designations of the Tara River Basin Biosphere Reserve (1977) and the Durmitor National Park World Heritage property (1980) and the decisions of the World Heritage Committee (1985 and following sessions), activities began again in 1988 and 2000 to 2004.

The mission noted the key issues and concerns, as raised by various stakeholders after evaluating the project and its potential effects: environmental and socio-economic impacts, Long-term economic viability, threats to the values and integrity of the World Heritage property and relevance for the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, impacts on the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and population relocation and risk preparedness. In addition, the mission identified a number of other issues regarding the state of conservation of the site, including the spatial plan for the Durmitor National Park Region and its relation to the hydropower project, Public participation and management issues; Management and Management Plan, Ski development and exclusion of the city of Zabljak; Other factors affecting the World Heritage property; Issues concerning the Biosphere Reserve; Sustainable Development of the Durmitor Region; and transboundary context.

The mission made a wide range of specific recommendations both as a follow-up to the 1996 mission as well as the hydropower project and concluded that this project would constitute a threat to the values and integrity of the property and the buffering UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

The mission specifically recommended danger listing of the property in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines* should the current project be pursued, as the Buk Bijela dam project constitutes a potential threat to the outstanding universal value of the property, as well as to its integrity, particularly as the National Natural Monument of the Tara River and the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of the Tara River Basin, buffering the World Heritage property, would be flooded by such a dam project.

Following the results of the mission the Director-General of UNESCO transmitted the detailed report to both States Parties to the *Convention* for comments. On 31 January 2005 minor boundary changes to the World Heritage property were submitted to the World Heritage Centre, as result of recommendations of both the 1996 and 2005 missions.

On 1 April 2005, a detailed report was received from the authorities of Serbia and Montenegro which

confirmed that the Government of Montenegro, had halted the project.

The Director General congratulated the State Party for its swift action and for the approach taken in support of World Heritage conservation.

Draft Decision : 29 COM 7B.201

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**;
2. Recalling its Decisions **9 COM, 15 COM and 20 COM** adopted at its 9th, 15th and 20th sessions respectively;
3. Thanking the Director-General of UNESCO for immediately dispatching an international expert team to both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro to review the proposed Buk Bijela dam project;
4. Notes with concern the results of the UNESCO/IUCN mission to the property and the States Parties concerned and the detailed report by the mission team;
5. Requests the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to fully respect the World Heritage Convention, in particular Article 6.3 and not to take any action to threaten the values and integrity of a property located on the territory of another State Party to this Convention;
6. Urges both States Parties to fully implement all recommendations of the international expert mission;
7. Congratulates the Government of Serbia and Montenegro and the authorities of Montenegro for the immediate action taken to halt the hydropower project and requests that for any other potential project international standards for Environmental Impact Studies are applied and all measures are taken to minimize and, preferably, to eliminate any direct and indirect threats to the World Heritage property;
8. Encourages both States Parties to ratify other relevant international agreements, including the Aarhus Convention and the Danube Convention;
9. Urges both States Parties to collaborate in seeking alternative energy solutions and to fully comply with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines in protecting the World Heritage property of Durmitor National Park and other protected areas in the region;
10. Further requests both States Parties to provide to the World Heritage Centre with an updated report, including any new decisions relating to

the dam project or other development projects and issues, as well as transboundary collaboration, by 1 February 2006 for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

**22. Yellowstone (United States of America)
(N 28)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1978

Years of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
1995 - 2003

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7A.12
28 COM 15B.122

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/IUCN mission 1995.

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

Invasive species; Road construction.

Current conservation issues:

By letter dated 14 February 2005 the State Party provided a detailed updated report on the situation of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) and requested that the yearly reporting be suspended. IUCN reviewed the report which notes recent work and progress achieved in addressing key integrity issues that have been of concern to the World Heritage Committee in the past years. These include:

Mining Activities: The State Party report reasserts what was reported to the Committee last year. Efforts to comprehensively clean the property continue to be undertaken by the authorities at all fronts although the McLaren mine tailings, have been omitted from the cleanup agreement.

Threats to Bison: The State Party reports that the carefully crafted consensus-based plan reported last year has been successfully implemented for four years. The State Party acknowledges that many people in the conservation community do not support the plan, however in the last four years the core Yellowstone bison population has been sustained at or above 3,000 animals, which is considered a high population level. In addition, the plan addresses each of the major issues regarding the risk of brucellosis transmission from bison to livestock. For the first time ever, non-infected bison captured at the boundary in the winter of 2003-2004, were vaccinated against

the disease and released back into Yellowstone instead of being destroyed. The report notes that an Environmental Impact Study concerning the remote vaccination of herds within Yellowstone was begun in 2004, and includes substantial regional public involvement. Discussions and research continue to consider ways to eventually eliminate brucellosis from wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Area while maintaining wild and free ranging wildlife herds.

Threats to Cutthroat Trout: In an effort to conserve the endemic Yellowstone Cutthroat trout the gillnetting fishing effort reported last year has increased resulting in the destruction of over 100,000 adult and juvenile lake trout. Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) has declined considerably from the high in 1998 and has generally continued to decline annually since that time, which suggests the program has measurably reduced the population in 2003 and 2004. If the CPUE continues to decline it indicates that the Lake Trout population is collapsing. In addition to annual refinements in gillnetting technology to improve take-efficiency, night-time electro-fishing over lake trout spawning beds was attempted for the first time with encouraging success. Discussions on methods of destroying fertilized eggs and larval fish in Lake Bottom rubble are at an early stage of discussion and may lead to additional measures of control.

Water Quality Issues: It is reported that all of the park's fuel storage tanks have been replaced with new double-walled liquid tanks or replaced with more environmentally friendly propane gas tanks. A new wastewater plant has been constructed at Old Faithful, older or problematic lift stations, lines, grease traps have been replaced at many locations in the park. A backlog of deteriorated smaller wastewater facilities remain and aged (pre-1966) distribution systems in Yellowstone will be replaced or updated in the future, as funds are available.

Road Impacts: No new information is provided since the last Committee session.

Visitor Use Impacts: The State Party reported that the National Park Service (NPS) believes the most recent decision addresses winter use related issues and the park's goals of protecting park resources, protecting employee and visitor health and safety, and improving the quality of the visitor experience. The NPS also believes the Final Interim Rule honors the rulings by both of the Federal judges and the NPS is hopeful that expected legal challenges will not disrupt the implementation of the interim plan. The NPS will be developing a new Environmental Impact Statement to address the long term winter use issue and that process is expected to take several years to complete.

Spring, summer, and fall visitation continues to be below the high level measured in 1995, and visitor growth appears to have diminished. Separately, the park has focused on development of partnerships to encourage more sustainable visitor use. Several

partnerships encourage use of alternate fuels for transportation and facilities or highlight hybrid automobiles for transportation. Another partnership is working to reduce solid waste, foster recycling and large-scale composting of organic materials. These partnerships should help the park and adjacent communities foster a region-wide approach, serving visitors more efficiently and with less resource consumption in the future.

Since July 2004, IUCN received information that an earlier ruling restricting snowmobiles in Yellowstone was overturned by judicial process with limited snowmobile access permitted for a period of three years pending further environmental impact studies. This issue has been contentious at least for the past ten years, subject to a high level of stakeholder involvement, political and judicial influence. The park service has changed its position a number of times due to changed technology and differing philosophical approaches. Additional information received by IUCN indicates there are currently 180 miles of roads groomed for snowcoach and snowmobile access. Peak use is 1,100 – 1,200 snowmobiles per day, which compares with summer use of up to 25,000 vehicles per day. Perceived impacts include noise, air quality; pollution of snow; unrestricted access; disturbance to wildlife that road grooming facilitates unnatural wildlife movement and that there is no ‘rest’ time for the park. More than 50 research projects have been undertaken to assess impacts. Most research suggests impacts are localized.

Although winter use planning has been underway for the last ten years, the YNP Master Plan is over 30 years old and there is no Summer Use Plan. YNP has a complex, multilayered planning structure. Seasonal and issue specific planning in the absence of an up-to-date general Management Plan for the property raises some questions of planning context, integration and a long term vision for the park. It is recommended that the State Party review the currency and relevance of the 1973 Master Plan as the overarching plan for YNP and as the framework for the numerous sub plans which are in operation.

Many issues reported by the State Party are similar to issues facing other World Heritage properties. IUCN acknowledges the considerable efforts by the State Party to address these and that the State Party should be requested to annually report on new and emerging threats and management developments.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev** and having noted the conclusions of the Document **WHC-05/29.COM/11A**,

2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.122** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for additional information provided following the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2003 and for its continued efforts in addressing key conservation and management issues in the property;
4. Requests the State Party to review the currency and relevance of the 1973 Master Plan as the overarching plan for Yellowstone National Park and as the framework for the numerous sub plans which are in operation;
5. Further requests the State Party to annually report on new and emerging threats and management developments and submit an updated report by **1 February 2006** for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

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

23. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1983

Criteria: N (i) (ii) (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.15
28 COM 15B.21

International Assistance :

Preparatory Assistance for the extension of the property (US\$ 15,000 in 2004)

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/IUCN mission 2002; UNESCO/IUCN mission 3-6 February 2004

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

Potential impacts resulting from uncoordinated ski resort construction; Lack of Management Plan and effective management mechanisms; Illegal logging leading to forest disturbance; Unresolved boundary issues

Current conservation issues:

Following the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission from 3 to 6 February 2004, the State Party undertook a number of follow-up activities and submitted an international assistance request for the extension of the property and for preparation of a

nomination to modify the boundaries which was processed, and the project is currently underway.

Furthermore, several reports were provided by the Ministry of Environment and Water: The first letter dated 28 September 2004 informing the Centre that the Management Plan of Pirin National Park was finally approved with Decision 646 dated 6 August 2004 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria; A second dated 12 January 2005 providing a map of the property and clarifying the status of different zoning arrangements; and thirdly a letter dated 19 January 2005 on the specific actions taken in response to Decision **28 COM 15B.21**.

IUCN points out that in late 2004, a coalition NGO (Save Pirin) started an independent review on the environmental and economic impact of the Bansko Skiing Zone as well as on the legal aspects of the project and its implementation. However, IUCN has yet to review a copy of the complete study and is not in a position to provide an objective assessment of the environmental impact studies.

The State Party responded to the specific request regarding the adoption of the Management Plan. The plan identifies six zones: the reserve zone; zone of limited human impact; zone of conservation of forest ecosystems and recreation; zone for sustainable use of open territories and recreation; tourism zone, and the buildings and facilities zone. A map indicating the original boundary at the time of the nomination was also provided. Other additional maps clarifying earlier discrepancies were made available in January 2005 providing additional detailed information about the boundaries of the World Heritage property as declared in 1983, as well as the present boundaries of the National Park in accordance with Bulgarian legislation.

In regard to the possible exclusion of the Bansko ski zone from the World Heritage property, as well as any new territories, which may be included in the future, the State Party reports that a careful evaluation will be carried out by a team to be formed during the process of extension of the property. The ultimate decision on the development of the ski resort will remain with the team.

In response to a recommendation to improve communication, the State Party reports that a national programme for monitoring biodiversity is being financially supported by the Dutch Government. This programme, upon approval will officially be introduced in Pirin National Park and is expected to enhance communication between the various agents, particularly regarding monitoring information. A Scientific Council has been established and there is a provision in the Management Plan for the establishment of a Consultative Council of the Park.

The State Party has adequately responded to the decision of the 28th session of the Committee

(Suzhou, 2004), and has provided significant indications of the progress made in the implementation of the specific recommendations of the 2004 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission concerning the state of conservation of the property, its management, its zoning, the establishment of buffer zones and improved communication. The revised map provided is an improvement on the earlier map and is acceptable.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.21** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Notes with satisfaction that the State Party provided progress reports on measures taken to address the recommendations of the 2004 World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission for examination by the Committee and that the Management Plan was finally approved in August 2004;
4. Commends the State Party of Bulgaria for its continued commitment to address the conservation concerns of the property and for providing an updated map of the property as well as for the positive steps in expanding the size of the property;
5. Expresses concern over uncontrolled ski development within the World Heritage property;
6. Further commends the Dutch and Swiss Governments for the generous financial support to Bulgaria and Pirin National Park;
7. Invites the State Party to bring forward a nomination that will help to better define the boundaries of the property based on its outstanding universal value and issues of integrity, notably in relation to the ski area.

24. Skocjan Caves (Slovenia) (N 390)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1986

Criteria: N (ii) (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

24 COM VIII.23
28 COM 15B.28

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

IUCN mission in 1999

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

Wind generators (Turbine wind farm)

Current conservation issues:

The State Party has not provided any response to the Committee's request on the status of the proposed establishment of wind generators or a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment prepared for this project. The World Heritage Centre reminded the authorities of these requirements during a meeting with the Secretary of the National Commission of Slovenia in April 2005. No reply was received at the time of the preparation of this document.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.28** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not provide any reply to the Committee's request for a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the wind generator project;
4. Urges the State Party to provide these documents as soon as possible and at the latest together with the Periodic Report (Section II) for Europe.

25. Doñana National Park (Spain) (N 685)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1994

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

26 BUR XII. 34
28 COM 15B.29

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO Reactive monitoring mission in November 1998; subsequent joint IUCN/UNESCO and Ramsar Convention missions to each of the Doñana 2005 expert meetings on Hydrological Restoration of Wetlands (1999, 2001 and 2004).

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

Restoration work after mining accident in 1998; Agriculture impacts; Extension of the National Park

Current conservation issues:

By letter of 31 January 2005, the State Party submitted the proposal to extend the boundaries of the property in order to adjust them to the enlargement of the National Park under Spanish law.

In October 2004, the 3rd Expert Meeting on Hydrological Restoration of Wetlands took place in Huelva, Spain, giving both an update report on the Doñana 2005 programme and the possibility to visit the site. The rehabilitation activities in and around the park continue to be focussed on the implementation of the Doñana 2005 programme with the re-establishment of a balanced ecosystem after the 1998 mining accident. Three out of eight sub-projects are still underway so that the programme is likely to extend beyond 2005.

The buffer zone of the World Heritage property is an anthropogenic transformed landscape consisting of a patchwork of more or less intensely used farmland. The use of subterranean water constitutes another problem, which is particularly evident for the rice cultures near Matalascañas in the South-East of the park. As long as intensive agricultural practices remain intense, the ecosystem and particularly the water quality of Doñana continue to be negatively affected. Regarding the project to enlarge the harbour of Sevilla and to deepen the riverbed of the Guadalquivir to allow for bigger ships to access it, the State Party considered it of only peripheral impact on the park's ecosystem, if at all, due to the dike between the park and the river.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.27** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for its report and the submission of the extension of the boundaries; and
4. Commends it for the continued restoration efforts made in the framework of Doñana 2005;
5. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed on a bi-annual basis on the state of conservation of the property on the progress made in the restoration work.

26. Henderson Island (United Kingdom) (N 487)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1988

Criteria : N (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

26 COM 21(b) 26
27 COM 7B.22

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Absence of a Management Plan

Current conservation issues:

The State Party provided on 16 July 2004 an updated Management Plan (2004 – 2009), which IUCN reviewed. The plan aims to ensure that the conservation and management of the property is undertaken in a sensitive and appropriate manner. It highlights the key issues affecting the property both now and in the future, and outlines how these should be addressed.

The plan sets guidelines to ensure that human activities do not adversely impact the conservation of the island's indigenous biota and natural environment. It further identifies six principal management objectives: protection of the geology, ecology and biota; ensure that the stocks of the timber species are adequate in meeting the needs of the Pitcairners on a sustainable basis; minimize interference with natural processes and the destruction or degradation of natural and archaeological features through human actions; ensure the island's archaeological features remain available for visitors and scientific study; ensure tourist visits to the island cause no long term damage to the island and are beneficial to the Pitcairn Islanders and to promote an awareness through education and research.

The objectives as reported do not affect any current use of Henderson Island by Pitcairn Islanders. The plan intends that well managed access to the island continues to be allowed for Pitcairners and responsible tourism. The plan comprehensively deals with the description and resource inventory, management policies and guidelines. The authorities have prepared a comprehensive Management Plan which provides a sound basis for the future management of the World Heritage property, and serve as the foundation for a more effective and cohesive approach through involving and respecting the individual roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,**
2. Recalling its Decision 27 COM 7B.22 adopted at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003),

3. Commends the State Party for its continued commitment to address the conservation concerns of the property and for providing an updated Management Plan for the property;
4. Requests that the State Party continue to keep the World Heritage Centre and IUCN informed on the progress made in the implementation of the plan; and
5. Further requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property by **1 February 2007**, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

27. Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast (United Kingdom) (N 369)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1986

Criteria: N (i) (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

26 COM 21(b) 24
27 COM 7B.21

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/IUCN mission 16 to 19 February 2003

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

Visitor centre developments; Lack of a Management Plan and management system.

Current conservation issues:

On 4 February 2005 the State Party provided as a follow-up to the 2003 mission, a copy of the final Draft of the Management Plan. The Management Plan commissioned by the Environment and Heritage Service of the Department of the Environment forms a part of the Ministerial initiative announced in April 2003 by Northern Ireland Office Ministers. The two other parts of the initiative are: a Tourism Master plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens area (published in April 2004), and an international competition for the design of a replacement visitor centre (to be launched in 2005).

The State Party reports that the Management Plan does not include planning policies for either the World Heritage property itself or for its wider setting. These policies will be contained within the Department of the Environment's Draft Northern Area Plan, to be published in 2005, and will be subject to public consultation and, in all probability, public inquiry through a separate process. The formal recognition of the setting through this statutory process will

replace the interim 4km zone in which all proposals for development are carefully scrutinised by the Department's Planning Service and its advisers.

Redevelopment of the visitor centre has not yet taken place and it is planned to hold an architectural competition for the design. The State Party proposes a new structure to ensure that the property is managed in a unified manner and that the Management Plan is implemented effectively. The resources to implement the Management Plan will have to come from a variety of sources. A partnership approach is suggested to realise its speedy and full implementation.

Detailed consultations with a wide range of stakeholders meant that the time needed to prepare the Management Plan had taken longer than expected. However, IUCN noted that the plan conformed to the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission of February 2003, and addresses the conservation requirements of the property and the needs of the visitor, both in terms of access and information. The plan further establishes a vision for the property and five underlying principles that serve to guide its protection, management and enjoyment. It thus provides an important context for the proposed new visitor centre. The Management Plan provides a sound basis for the future management of the World Heritage property, and will serve as the foundation for a more effective and cohesive approach through involving and respecting the individual roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 27 COM 7B.21 adopted at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003),
3. Commends the State Party for the progress made in finalizing the Management Plan and for the initial steps taken in its implementation;
4. Expresses satisfaction that the key issues raised in the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission of 2003 have been addressed as well as other conservation needs of the property;
5. Calls upon the State Party to expedite efforts to finalize the redevelopment of the visitor centre and report to the World Heritage Centre on progress made.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

28. Iguazu National Park (Brazil) (N 355)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1986

Criteria: N (iii) (iv)

Years of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1999- 2001

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.23

28 COM 7B.32

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$30,000

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/ IUCN mission March 1999;
UNESCO/IUCN mission March 2005;

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

Illegal road construction; lack of transboundary cooperation; excessive aircraft traffic.

Current conservation issues:

The Committee, at its 25th session (Helsinki, 2001) removed Iguazu National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger after the State Party had taken the necessary measures to close down an illegal road (Estrada do Colono) that crossed the Park. The Committee requested a joint UNESCO/IUCN mission to take place in 2002/03. This UNESCO/IUCN mission was delayed for various reasons, and finally took place in late March, 2005.

The mission reports major improvements in relations between the National Park authorities and the surrounding communities. A number of coordinated initiatives between the Park staff and the communities in environmental education, sustainable tourism and organic products are ongoing. Additionally, some community members have been involved and participated in the implementation of key elements of the Management Plan.

The mission confirmed during the visit to Estrada do Colono that the road remains closed, with plants already growing on the path. The reintroduction of native plants and trees is visible; however, the present park policy is to let the natural regeneration of the forest take its course. It was also noted that there is on going and increasing collaboration between the Brazilian and Argentinean properties particularly in

the fields of public use, control and law enforcement, research and environmental education.

Although progress has been made, the report notes that community issues and perceptions still need to be redressed. It is hoped that the forthcoming revision of the Management Plan of the Park will enhance community participation. The report noted that the following issues remain to be resolved:

- a) helicopters are still a source of conflict, although improved because they no longer take off or land inside the Park;
- b) hunting - the main purpose being commercial, with a small but resident market for bush-meat in the area surrounding the Park to the north;
- c) illegal cutting of heart of palm, mostly in the areas to the south of the Park; and
- d) plans exist for a new hydroelectric dam on the Iguacu River, called the "Baixo Iguacu" dam. The proposed property for the dam is only 500 meters from the eastern limit of the Park. The potential impact is high, and is a matter of serious concern though the extent to which the plans are being taken seriously at this point remains unclear.

The mission noted that the World Heritage designation of the park is not fully understood, and more communication and outreach work is needed to explain the exceptional characteristics of this World Heritage property and the responsibilities associated with this designation. The risk of another violent conflict affecting the property is today greatly diminished, but tensions remain. The present work of the National Park staff should be maintained and strengthened. There are significant funding constraints, which are a concern and need to be addressed. A request for International Assistance for promotional purposes may be considered by the State Party.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.28

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.32** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Expresses satisfaction with the progress made by the State Party on the conservation status of the Park and for the preservation of the values for which the property was inscribed; as well as with progress made in interagency cooperation and international cooperation with the Argentinean authorities;
4. Commends the State Party for its co-operation with the surrounding communities noting that significant progress has been made in forging

meaningful partnerships with various stakeholders;

5. Notes with concern the need for sustained financing of the property especially relating to ongoing programmes with communities and encourages the State Party to seek International Assistance and extrabudgetary funding in addressing these needs;
6. Also notes with concern the existence of plans for the development of a hydroelectric dam with significant potential impacts on the World Heritage property and urges the State Party report on its intentions with regard to the dam and hydropower projects in the region;
7. Further requests that the State Party continue to provide update information on the conservation status of the property and to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2007** for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1978; extended in 2001

Criteria: N (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B. 25

28 COM 7B. 31

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$466,250

Previous monitoring mission(s):

World Heritage Centre/IUCN/Chairperson 1-11 June 1996; World Heritage Centre mission June 2003; World Heritage Centre mission 14-21 April 2005;

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

Implementation of the Special Law; illegal fishing, implementation of quarantine measures.

Current conservation issues:

The report requested by the World Heritage Committee (**28 COM 15 B.31** paragraph 6) has not been received. The World Heritage Centre was in Galapagos from 14 to 21 April 2005 at the invitation of the State Party. During the mission, meetings were held with representatives from several stakeholder groups (fishermen, conservation NGOs, tourism and education organizations) along with elected officials (provincial governor, provincial prefect, mayor). Further meetings were held in Quito with the President of Ecuador, Ministers of Tourism and of Environment, a member of congress from Galapagos

and the roundtable of multi- and bilateral cooperation agencies working in the Galapagos.

Since January 2003, the State Party has appointed a succession of 12 Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS) directors. During this same period, there have been four ministers of the Environment, to whom the GNPS director reports. These circumstances alone are cause for serious concern over the ability of the GNPS to properly carry out its functions. Compounding this situation, the GNPS budget was reduced in 2004, resulting in the loss of approximately 30% of its personnel, from 296 to 181, many of whom were highly experienced and long standing GNPS park wardens. Though well endowed with the infrastructure necessary to carry out the monitoring of the Galapagos Marine Reserve (two large and rapid open ocean patrol vessels, a light aircraft, and several smaller but fast coastal patrol vessels), the GNPS no longer has the staff required to use it effectively. Similarly, on-going invasive species eradication programmes, several of which received support from the UNF/UNESCO project, are at risk. Despite these trends, the quarantine system for the islands appears to have become more robust and is reporting to be functioning adequately.

The inability of the GNPS to monitor activities in the Galapagos Marine Reserve is leading to uncontrolled fisheries activities. IUCN and the Centre have received frequent reports of an increase in illegal shark finning activity, where sharks are captured, their fins removed and sold to the growing Asian shark fin soup market, and their carcasses dumped into the sea. Industrial tuna fishing fleets are once again reported to be penetrating into Galapagos waters after having been effectively excluded for the past several years thanks to the previously effective GNPS patrolling of the reserve.

The GNPS's loss of local credibility as an effective management agency was exacerbated in February of 2005, when an illegal sports fishing derby was held in Galapagos. The derby involved 17 sports fishing vessels from Salinas, on the continental coast, and had the full patronage of local governments. Despite protests from the GNPS, which has the mandate to regulate such activities, the derby took place with impunity. Two of the fishing vessels have remained in Galapagos after having been granted licenses to operate in the islands by the Ecuadorian Merchant Marine authorities without the express consent of the GNPS, as is required under law. There is concern among the artisanal Galapagos fishing community that the sports fishing interests of the continental Ecuador will, by their illegal incursions into the islands, end up controlling this activity, which has until now been considered as a viable alternative to traditional fishing in the islands. They also consider the GNPS inaction in this matter as evidence of discrimination in their regard.

In spite of this critical situation, there is a growing willingness to overcome the difficulties in the islands among the various sectors. The tourism, fishing and agriculture sectors have begun working on establishing a stable supply of seafood and agricultural produce for the cruise ships, thus securing an important market for local producers.

The conservation sector in Galapagos has multiplied over the past four to five years. Where Charles Darwin Foundation (CDF) was the only significant conservation organization in the islands until the late 1990's, there are now over 12 national and international NGO's and bi/multilateral agencies with permanent staff in the islands. The rapid growth in international support for Galapagos has led to confusion in some sectors as to the determination of conservation and development priorities in the islands. The State Party has recognized the contribution of this sector to Galapagos and has formally requested on-going support from the Secretary General of the UN and from the Inter American Development Bank (IADB). At the request of the Minister of the Environment in late 2004, the UNDP and the IADB developed recommendations on the process for hiring the GNPS director. These recommendations were presented to the Ministry of the Environment in November 2004 but have not yet been implemented.

The provision for the strict control of migration to the islands is established in the Special Law for Galapagos, and regulations have been long adopted under this Law. However, it appears that there is little effective control of migration due in part to a lack of transparency and accountability in decision-making. All sectors of Galapagos express concern over this issue, and it is one of the most critical components for the conservation and sustainable development of the islands. INGALA is the institute responsible for migratory control, but is reported to be weak. The government of Italy is embarking upon a US\$3 million project to strengthen INGALA's technical capacity.

There is a movement to introduce long line fishing, a practice that may have considerable impact on marine biodiversity. Long lining goes against the State Party's commitment under the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, developed under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species, which, with the *World Heritage Convention*, is one of the five global biodiversity conventions. Other stakeholders including the tourism sector have also articulated similar concerns.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are of the view that given the prevailing circumstances, a mission to the property should be invited in September/October 2005 to assess the conservation status of the property with view of assessing conditions that may lead to inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,*
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.*

MIXED PROPERTIES

ASIA AND PACIFIC

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

30. Kakadu National Park (Australia) (C/N 147 bis)

Year of Inscription on the World Heritage List:
1981; extended in 1987 and in 1992

Criteria: C (i) (vi) N(ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.27-30

28 COM 15B.35

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint IUCN/ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre mission led by the Chairperson of the Committee in 1998;

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

Mining issues;

Current conservation issues:

The Centre received a report from a concerned NGO in Australia indicating current conservation threats posed to the property as a result of the increase in Cane Toad (*Bufo marinus*) infestation. The report noted that the park is currently being invaded by the introduced Cane Toad which is causing the extinction of various predatory native species that attempt to prey on the toad and are poisoned by the toxins. This information was provided to the State Party and IUCN.

The Centre furthermore received the report from the State Party, dated 8 March 2005, which noted that Cane Toads are now well established in the Park. It further explained that surveys commissioned by Parks Australia are providing reliable data on the impacts of Cane Toads on native fauna including northern quolls and a number of iguana species. The report indicated that the northern quolls are severely affected by Cane Toads and plans have been made to translocate some of the quolls to offshore islands, unlikely to be colonized by Cane Toads, in the hope that they may provide secure refuges for the species. In addition, it stated that the State Party had provided significant funds for Cane Toad biological control research and control methods.

The report provided the following additional information:

- a) *Rehabilitation of the Jabiluka Mine Property:* The State Party reported that Energy Resources of Australia Ltd (ERA) has placed the Jabiluka property on a long-term care and maintenance regime, and that the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation and the Northern Land Council, representing the traditional owners of the property, have formally agreed to support the implementation of this regime. The report noted that the agreement contains a commitment that no mining would take place at Jabiluka without the agreement of the traditional owners.
- b) *Appointment of an environmental NGO representative within the Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC):* The Minister for Environment and Heritage agreed to the inclusion of an environmental NGO representative on the ARRTC and determined an appropriate process for seeking nominations of suitably qualified persons. The Minister also consulted seven national environmental NGO's and discussions are proceeding to identify a suitable appointment.
- c) *Measures taken to avoid any further contaminated water incidents at the Ranger Mine:* The supervising scientist, in an August 2004 report, found no significant impact on the ecosystems of the Park, as a result of a Uranium Mine spillage incident in March 2004, and that there should be no repercussions on the health of people emanating from the consumption of food or water from the creek or billabongs downstream from the mine. The State Party acknowledged that a number of workers reported adverse health effects as a result of the incident. The report noted that these symptoms in all cases were short-lived and not serious. It indicated that the State Party engaged the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organization to undertake independent audits of the mine and determine the extent to which ERA had complied with these conditions. The report noted that the audits were conducted in September and October 2004 and in mid-January 2005, each indicating satisfactory progress by ERA. The State Party further noted that the Northern Territory Government has brought charges against ERA under the Mining Management Act 2001. On 27 May 2005, the World Heritage Centre received additional information from the State Party regarding the court proceedings. The report notes that ERA has pleaded guilty to the charges, and that the magistrate hearing the case is expected to pronounce a judgment in the near future.
- d) The State Party also reported that the Kakadu Board of Management working with the tourism

industry in the Park and supported by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments, has developed a vision for future tourism in the Park, which was launched in February 2005. IUCN noted that the State Party responded favourably to the request of the Committee at its 28th session. The State Party submitted a comprehensive report which adequately addresses the range of issues related to the property and for the ongoing monitoring of Cane Toad impact on the Park's fauna and ecosystems with a view to adopting management responses to this threat.

The Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation and the Northern Land Council have supported the long-term care and maintenance regime at the Jabiluka mining site. However, ICOMOS was concerned to learn that some workers at the Ranger Mine have reported health problems following the potable water pollution incident in March 2004. It endorsed the recommendation of the supervising scientist that a longer-term health monitoring programme should be implemented without delay.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.30

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.35**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Notes the detailed report provided by the State Party;
4. Commends the State Party for the progress made in the conservation of the property and for the current efforts in improving tourism management in the Park;
5. Requests the State Party to continue the efforts in mitigating the negative impact of Cane Toad on the ecosystem of the property and monitor the progress in this regard;
6. Reiterates the request to the State Party to proceed rapidly with the appointment of an environmental NGO representative within the Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC); and
7. Aslo requests the State Party to continue to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the progress made in addressing the above key issues.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

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

31. Pyrénées – Mont Perdu (France/Spain) (C/N 773bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997; extension 1999

Criteria: N (i) (iii) and C (iii) (iv) (v)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

23 COM VIII.3.B.2

28 COM 15B.36

International Assistance:

None

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

(transboundary) Management coordination ; Festival de Gavarnie on the World Heritage property

Current conservation issues:

The State Party of France had been requested to report on the situation of the Festival de Gavarnie, and to provide a progress report by 1 February 2005. However, no report has been received on the state of conservation of the French side of the property.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.36**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regretting that the State Party of France did not comply with the Committee's request,
4. Reiterates its request to implement the Advisory Bodies' recommendations regarding the Festival de Gavarnie;
5. Requests the State Party of France to provide the World Heritage Centre with a specific progress report on the situation of the Festival de Gavarnie and the transboundary cooperation by **1 February 2006** at the latest.

32. Mount Athos (Greece) (C/N 454)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1988

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iv) (v) (vi) N (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.37

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Devastating fire at the Hilandry Monastery on Mount Athos in March 2004.

Current conservation issues:

The Greek authorities provided a report dated 31 January 2005 on efforts to address the fire damage. This report documented the scale of the destruction (exceeding 10,000 sq m of lost surface) and the restoration funds necessary (about 30,000,000 Euros). The report also describes immediate efforts to mitigate the fire damage by protective fencing, and photogrammetric documentation to help estimate the extent of the damage. Consolidation and shelter works totalling approximately 1,000,000 Euro have been carried out through the end of the winter 2004-2005. Further consolidation and cleaning operations are planned in 2005 to permit the beginning of restoration in 2006. Anticipated works are being guided by the competent authorities of the Centre of Preservation of the Holy Mount (Mount Athos) Heritage (KEDAK), the 10th Ephorate of Byzantine and post-Byzantine antiquities of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, and an advisory committee of scientists of international reputation set up to guide post-fire decision-making. ICOMOS noted that the responsible authorities in Greece and in Mount Athos have provided a rapid and carefully planned response to the fire. It is clear that post-fire restoration activities are going to be meticulously organized and controlled.

The funds allocated by the Greek Ministry of Culture over the next five years (1,000,000 Euros) fall far short of the funds described as necessary (30,000,000 Euros) in the letter of the Greek authorities. It may be useful to review with the Greek authorities funding options to reduce the gap. The Centre notes that the 1,000,000 Euros contribution is only from the budget of the Ministry of Culture, while other funds will be provided from other Greek Ministries and organizations. ICOMOS notes that it would be useful for the Greek authorities to undertake a risk preparedness study of all 20 monasteries on the Holy Mount, in order to systematically reduce the likelihood of fire elsewhere. Attention should also be paid in such a risk analysis exercise to seismic preparedness. Such a risk preparedness report should be brought to the attention of the Committee.

A number of other management problems have become evident in visits to the site by the members of

ICOMOS and other organizations in recent years. Large European Union funded infrastructure projects have promoted intrusive road development projects (in a territory that has very limited vehicular traffic) and which have threatened long maintained landscape qualities around and between monasteries. Equally EU funded restoration projects are taking place without reference to the WH values recognized at the moment of inscription, and without following normal conservation standards for documentation, investigation and analysis.

Concern has been expressed that the chestnut forest surrounding the monasteries – the last extensive forest in the Mediterranean area – is threatened by careless habits of timber extraction and increasing road building between monastic settlements.

Difficulties are recognized in bringing modern standards of management to a property whose intrinsic value depends on preserving in part its traditional ways of life and faith, which have also developed with little attention to heritage management concerns. Furthermore, there are great differences in monasteries' attitude. The great degree of independence accorded to individual monasteries make development of fully co-ordinated approaches to heritage management difficult and unlikely. Nevertheless, a minimum effort to provide a common forum among the monasteries to discuss heritage issues would prove very useful in strengthening the consistency and quality of interventions to the heritage of the Holy Mount. Such a forum could be a logical outcome of efforts already launched by ICOMOS Greece to develop in collaboration with the monks, a kind of conservation charter for Mount Athos.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.37**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, China 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for the report provided, concerning the immediate efforts to mitigate the fire which took place on 4 March 2004 at the Hilandry Monastery within the Mount Athos World Heritage property;
4. Congratulates the State Party for the rapid and carefully planned response to the fire;
5. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre complementary detailed information on consolidation, cleaning operations and restoration of the Hilandry Monastery;
6. Further requests the State Party to undertake a risk preparedness study, including seismic

preparedness, of all 20 monasteries on the Holy Mount, in order to systematically reduce the likelihood of fire elsewhere, and possibility of other threats, and to explore the development of an overall management strategy for the World Heritage property, which would address both natural and cultural values, and provide for a common framework for action among the 20 monasteries on the property.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

33. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C 274)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1983

Criteria: N (ii) (iii) and C (i) (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.38

International Assistance:

Total: US\$ 103,825

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint IUCN/ICOMOS mission October 1997; World Heritage Centre IUCN/ICOMOS mission October 1999; World Heritage Centre/IUCN/ICOMOS mission 25 February-1 March 2002; World Heritage Centre-visit 23 October 2003; World Heritage Centre mission 15-16 April 2005;

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

Delays in the revision of the Master Plan, including detailed yearly operational plans, supported by adequate budget provisions; No evaluation of transport options, including geological studies and the development of a study on the impacts of buses on landslides; Lack of studies related to the carrying capacity of the Citadel and Camino Inca; Delays in the development of a Public Use Plan; Delays in implementation of the urban planning and control measures for Aguas Calientes; Lack of proper management of the site; Lack of risk Management Plans related to natural disasters;

Current conservation issues:

On 11 February 2005 the World Heritage Centre received the document "Propuesta General y Lineamientos para el Plan Maestro del Santuario Historico de Machupicchu" (Instituto Nacional de Cultura del Cuzco, November 2004), which is an

outline for the new Master Plan for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu. This proposal was conceived by the INC (Instituto Nacional de Cultura) in Cuzco, in cooperation with the INRENA (Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales) and MINCETUR (Ministerio de Comercio Exterior y Turismo), in December 2003, and it sets out a first stage of 23 basic studies and diagnoses on the different themes related to the management and operation of the sanctuary. These studies were done from July to December 2004, by a group of academics and technicians from the INC and specialized consultants.

The draft guidelines for the Master Plan are presented in seven parts:

- a) explaining objectives, methodology, strategies and necessary studies for development of the new Master Plan;
- b) analyzing legal framework, international conventions, and involvement of all institutions, being their participation, responsibilities and competition;
- c) presenting the sacred character of the natural and cultural spaces, as well as the critical problems affecting. Based on observations regarding various factors related to tourism on the site, the authors calculate the carrying capacity for the citadel at 2500 persons per day;
- d) focusing on the territory, the cultural and natural resources, its infrastructure, urban systems, and the design of possible tourist circuits;
- e) presenting an organizational structure for the greater territory around Machu Picchu, including its infrastructure, economic possibilities, natural characteristics, and social, cultural and tourism aspects;
- f) proposing a long-term plan for ten years (2005-2015), including sections for the middle (five years, 2005-2010) and short term (one year), all these based on 11 different strategic lines;
- g) detailing the sequence to carry out the plan in four stages for the next ten years with a list of 75 programs or projects according to the 11 strategic lines.

The control of the urban development of Aguas Calientes is not properly dealt with in the proposed guidelines for the Master Plan. INC, INRENA and the Municipality of Aguas Calientes should work together to ensure that the new Master Plan includes detailed ordinances, which should be adopted and implemented as a matter of urgency. ICOMOS further points out that the legal clearance of the land tenure of the territory of the sanctuary is one of several issues to be solved, as well as the coordination between the different institutions like INC, INRENA, MINCETUR. Another issue poorly developed in the proposal is the access by road to the Citadel from the

train station, which urgently needs a solution. The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS conclude that the document provides the basic guidelines for the preparation of the new Master Plan for the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu, but that it is not the Master Plan itself. The coming period should be devoted to write the final plan and have it institutionalized.

As requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the World Heritage Centre collaborated with the Government of Peru in organizing a meeting in Lima to discuss the way in which the Vilcanota Valley Rehabilitation and Management Project could improve the state of conservation of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (HSPM). The meeting took place on 18 and 19 April 2005 between the World Bank, the World Heritage Centre and the responsible Peruvian authorities. The Vilcanota Project aims to assist the Government of Peru in its efforts to improve management of tourism in the HSMP and is mainly focused on tourism development that will foster sustainable development initiatives in the Vilcanota Valley, which counts for around 100,000 inhabitants and covers a substantial territory inscribed on the World Heritage List. The project will be implemented in partnership with the National Geographic Society, the World Monuments Fund, NGOs and bilateral donors.

In principle, the Project will facilitate access to improved urban services and infrastructure throughout the Valley, through the development of a regional solid waste management system, resettlement of vulnerable households in Aguas Calientes, and detailed engineering, environmental impact assessments and investments in urban infrastructure. During the meeting the World Heritage Centre showed concern with regard to a key component of the project, which refers to the resettlement of 60 Aguas Calientes families, whose homes are highly vulnerable to landslides. The Project has begun to inform the residents of the possibilities to be relocated in the Aobamba river valley, close to the Machu Picchu citadel and Aguas Calientes village, within the buffer zone of the HSMP, but in close proximity of the core of the property. 13.5 hectares will be needed to install a pilot village for the families of Aguas Calientes. This area is under jurisdiction of the Municipality of Aguas Calientes, and since it has not been able to stop the disorderly development of Aguas Calientes itself, there is concern that a similar process could happen in the new area. The Peruvian authorities should establish clear terms of reference for an environmental assessment study that takes into account the entire impact of the plans, in particular the resettlement, and consider alternative properties for this resettlement.

During the meeting in Lima, the World Heritage Centre reiterated that UNESCO cannot be referred to

as the implementing agency for the Vilcanota Project, as is currently stated in the World Bank's website for the project, since the current cooperation in this project has not been institutionalized.

According to the title of the Project and with a view to providing strategies for economic, social and cultural development, a wider institutional coordination would be needed for the efficient implementation of the activities. None of the proposed actions will be effective without the leadership of the Management Unit that should create mechanisms to reinforce its institutional capacity at national and regional level to fulfill the foreseen interventions.

The World Heritage Centre also received document "Precursory Stage of Landslides in the Inca World Heritage property at Machu Picchu, Peru", by Kyoji Sassa of the Research Center on Landslides, Disaster Prevention Research Institute (K. Sassa, Kyoto University, Japan). Recommendations 12, 13 and 14 of the 2002 UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN mission encouraged to continue the studies on the possibility of landslides at the Ciudadela.

The document explains that an International Consortium on Landslides has been established, with specialists of several fields and countries that are now conducting an international scientific program on Machu Picchu. In the fieldwork two blocks were identified that potentially can be part of a landslide: block 1 on the slopes of the Inca's Citadel, on the access to the Hiram Bingham Road, and the other block 2, involving the whole slope, including part of the Machu Picchu Citadel. "However, the process will be extremely slow in the time span in the ordinary life of people as is usual in the geological and geomorphologic development process".

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS acknowledge that some advances in the research of the landslide problems at Machu Picchu have been made, but that more research is needed to get more reassurances as regards the risks and ways to mitigate them. IUCN commented that it had not sufficiently reviewed the report by Kyoto University and that a detailed analysis and review of the report, together with IUCN's recommendations, will be made available at the 29th session of the Committee.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.33

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.38, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Takes note of the information provided by the State Party and the advances made in the elaboration of the Master Plan and invites the State Party to officially request technical support from UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN to*

assist in the task of national and regional authorities to engage in a participatory process to finalize the Master Plan, as well as the development of a Public Use Plan;

4. *Urges the Management Unit of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu to send the Operative Plan for 2005 to the World Heritage Centre;*
5. *Expresses its concern over the construction of a pilot village in the buffer zone of the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu within the framework of the Vilcanota Project and requests the States Party to take the appropriate measures to analyze the potential impact of this intervention through an impact assessment study;*
6. *Strongly urges the State Party to formalize and enforce urban planning guidelines, as part of the new Master Plan, to control the development of Aguas Calientes;*
7. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue working with the Government of Peru and the World Bank to assist and guide the Management Unit and related institutions in the integrated conservation of the property within the framework of the Vilcanota project;*
8. *Urges the Government of Peru and the World Bank to re-orient the priorities of the Vilcanota Valley Project to provide a Tourism Operational Plan for the entire Valley;*
9. *Thanks Kyoto University and the International Consortium on Landslides for their support and encourages them to continue their research to propose concrete actions to prevent and mitigate the risks of landslides at the Citadel and surrounding areas;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and progress made in the development and implementation of plans by **1 February 2006** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session in 2006.*

CULTURAL HERITAGE

AFRICA

PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

34. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1980

Criteria: C (i) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

20 COM VII.47-57
22 COM VII.31-41

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO mission 17 to 25 September 2004

UNESCO mission 9 to 18 April 2005;

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

Lack of conservation and Management Plans; uncontrolled constructions; lack of documentation and equipment; lack of interpretation and presentation; lack of the demarcation of the site.

Current conservation issues:

At the invitation of the Ethiopian authorities through letters dated 15 February and 3 March 2005, and by the Italian authorities through a letter dated 5 April 2005 and by a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Italian and Ethiopian Governments and transmitted to UNESCO by the Permanent Delegate of Italy to UNESCO through a fax dated 17 February 2005, a multidisciplinary UNESCO scientific mission for the non-destructive archaeological investigation of the archaeological zone of the World Heritage property of Aksum was undertaken in the context of the return of the "Obelisk of Aksum" (Stela number 2) by the Italian Government to Aksum in Ethiopia. The mission was coordinated with the Ethiopian authorities in Addis Ababa, the Permanent Delegation of Ethiopia to UNESCO, UNESCO Addis Ababa Office, the Italian Delegation to UNESCO and the Italian Embassy in Addis Ababa, to pave the way for UNESCO's involvement in the erection of the Obelisk at Aksum World Heritage site. The objectives of the mission included the collection of information leading to the preparation of a detailed Project Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed erection site, the definition of the appropriate

methodology for this intervention, and to appraise and carry out a preliminary assessment on the state of conservation of Aksum World Heritage site, specifically as regards the feasibility of the proposed erection of 'Stela 2', following its return from Italy. The UNESCO mission also took advantage of the visit to assess on the state of conservation of Aksum.

The UNESCO mission undertook six days of scientific sub-soil prospections of the archaeological zone of Aksum World Heritage property using georadar technology (Ground Penetration Radar or GPR) and electro-tomographs. The purpose of these explorations was to investigate, in a non-destructive way, the possible presence of archaeological remains in or around the area where Ethiopia has proposed to re-erect the Stela, *i.e.* at its original location, in view of its potential impact on the property and the surroundings. Prior to the mission, desk-studies and consultations were carried out on past archaeological excavations.

Preliminary results of UNESCO's scientific prospection show that the erection of the stelae in its original location would require extreme precaution in order not to affect the archaeological remains at the site, and not to destabilize another stela (No.3) which stands nearby. As a result of these investigations, the UNESCO team discovered a number of tombs and cavities in the vicinity of the site. The first profile showed the presence of three underground cavities, two of which are just in front and below stela 2. Further profiles taken at five meter intervals revealed further cavities under the ground and in particular a very large chamber with a collapsed roof just below and in front of stela 3, as well as others to the northeast of the entrance to the site. The need for such an extended investigation is connected to the erection project to the stela itself and in particular in order to identify ground or at least a path free of any underground cavities able to support the stela and the necessary erection equipment.

UNESCO preliminary studies have shown that the extent of the archaeological zone of Axum is much more extensive than previously thought. Clearly, a comprehensive archaeological investigation is now called for. If the stela is to be erected in its previous site, this undertaking would require extreme precaution as well as previous salvage of archaeological remains to save what can be saved on the new chambers, located by the georadar and electro-tomographic investigations.

The UNESCO mission noted also that Aksum and its surrounding countryside contain a number of architectural and archaeological properties of importance for the development of culture and tourism in the Tigray Region. These properties are an integral part of Aksum's townscape and are interspersed within the area of the daily activities of residents of the town. The most important of these properties is the main

stelae field running north from the town at the foot of Beta Giyorghis hill along the banks of the Mai Hejja stream. Within this field, there are approximately 120 stelae ranging from simple undressed stone slabs to elaborately carved obelisks as high as 30 meters.

As regard to the main stelae field, there has been concern for some time about the stability of the only remaining, standing carved stele because of its very pronounced lean. This situation should continue to be monitored until such time as a definite evaluation can be made. Another problem has been water leakage into some of the tombs. A corrugated iron roof has been added to the western end of the park over the "Tomb of the False Door". At the Gudit stelae field, the land continues to be used for agriculture, but this poses no danger as long as there are no ongoing excavations. It should be emphasized that the Old Town of Aksum constitutes in itself an important historic urban ensemble and should therefore be seen as an important element of the cultural heritage.

Aksum, like nearly all World Heritage properties in Ethiopia, does not have properly demarcated boundaries. The boundaries of the core and buffer zones of the World Heritage property should be defined as a matter of urgency, especially taking into account that Aksum has a large population living within what can be termed as the heritage core area.

There is currently no system which ties the properties together or which allows for their interpretation by visitors to Aksum or by residents of the town. The problems noted include: lack of signs at any of the properties identifying them in any way; no interpretation or presentation of the properties other than by the guides provided along with the price of admission to the sites; no explanatory material (brochures, books, etc...) to supplement what the guides may say and that can be taken away with the visitor.

The Government of Ethiopia secured from the World Bank a Learning and Innovation Loan (LIL) amounting to US\$5m with the objective of testing and developing, on a pilot basis, the means for more fully integrating the conservation and management of its cultural heritage into local and national economic development. The project will also contribute to the revitalization of economic activity by testing out approaches for small crafts-based enterprises and by capitalizing on tourism potential. The Cultural project has four components - (i) Site Planning and Conservation (ii) Inventory and Documentation Development (iii) Support for the development of Artisan Crafts, and (iv) Support for Project Management.

In Aksum, the project will finance site planning activities for the town's archaeological sites, including the development and planning of an expanded archaeological museum. The expanded museum will serve as a local cultural and educational facility, as

well as housing more recent historical acquisitions. The site planning process will complement a new "Master Plan" currently under development. The World Heritage Centre will consult with the State Party and the World Bank to ensure that the values of the properties are taken into consideration in the implementation of the projects.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.34

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Commends the scientific work being carried out by UNESCO in Aksum;
3. Welcomes with gratitude the invitation of UNESCO by both the Governments of Ethiopia and Italy, and the co-operation of the two States Parties leading to the return of the stela, which could enhance the value of the Aksum World Heritage property;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre to continue its scientific work with a view to the formulation of recommendations on where and how to re-erect the obelisk, and requests the Ethiopian and Italian authorities to cooperate with UNESCO in this regard;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit an updated, detailed map of the property, including geographic coordinates and scale, indicating clearly the boundaries of the World Heritage core and buffer zones;
6. Invites the World Bank to cooperate with the World Heritage Centre in order to ensure that the heritage values of Aksum are taken into due consideration in developing the new Management Plan and the Master Plan;
7. Further requests the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM to undertake a mission to Aksum with a view to evaluate its state of conservation and to submit a report to the Committee for consideration at its 30th session in 2006.

35. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C1055)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2001

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.31

28 COM 15B.39

International Assistance :

Technical cooperation for the rehabilitation of the Lamu Waterfront, 2004: US\$ 6,932

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/ICOMOS mission 22 to 27 March 2004

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

Lack of Management plan; lack of risk preparedness, especially in the case of fire; sewerage situation; lack of resources.

Current Conservation issues:

Following the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to the property in March 2004 the State Party was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) (Decision **28 COM 15A.39**) to implement the recommendations of the mission and to submit a detailed report on its progress. The State Party sent a report on the state of conservation of Lamu Old Town on 1 March 2005 to the World Heritage Centre, which was transmitted to ICOMOS for review. On the basis of the report, prepared by the National Museum of Kenya, Lamu, ICOMOS and the Centre concluded that overall the property is in a good state of conservation, but noted that since Lamu has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, less activities in public restoration and upgrading of public areas programmes have been taking place. Concern is raised as no start has been made to implement the recommendations of last years assessment mission, especially no progress has been reported on the establishment of a Management Plan.

The report mentioned that management and development of the Lamu Old Town is a complex issue which first of all entails more than one institution to administer its affairs, secondly fighting forces are many including political interventions and socio-economic forces that hinder the progress. The need of a Management Plan has already been identified at the time of inscription of the property in 2001. Many issues relating to the management of the property have been recognized, but no action seems to have been taken to address these seriously. Such issues include: establishment of a World Heritage property Authority, risk preparedness (especially in the case of fire), manage uncontrolled development, extension of the property to include Shella town and its Sand Dunes as well as an extension of the buffer zone to include the mangrove area on Manda Island. ICOMOS and the Centre wish to remind the State Party of its obligation towards the *World Heritage Convention*, to establish an appropriate Management Plan or other documented management system which should specify how the outstanding universal value of the property should be preserved, preferably through participatory means. (*Operational Guidelines*, Paragraph 108)

ICOMOS noted that the report implies a lack of awareness, lack of capacity, economic decline and institutional set-up, which hinder the management of the Town and recommend that these issues be effectively addressed by the State Party and the site management. It notes that the Lamu Planning Commission has not met for the last two years; conflicting interests appear between the authorities and private investors/community in the wake of a growing development; law enforcement is a problem due to political influences and foreigners continue to buy properties in the Old Town, changing the character of the town. A decline in tourism has occurred, reported to be due to water and sanitation problems, but no short-, medium- and long-term solutions have been formulated to address this problem, which is important to the sustainable development of the town.

ICOMOS noted a lack of capacities in both the Lamu County Council and in the NMK Lamu Museum to properly manage a World Heritage city, as well as a conflict of interest between the two institutions paralyzing the proper management of the property, whereas the city would benefit from their close co-operation, which could be institutionalized within a heritage committee or a property authority.

The Centre reports that upon the request of NMK, decentralized UNESCO funding (2004: US\$ 5,000) foreseen for the improvement of capacities for Lamu, have been employed for the procurement of computers and office equipment for the newly established World Heritage property office, which should facilitate the office to fulfill its roles in the management and planning of the site.

A UNESCO mission was undertaken to Lamu Island from 12 to 22 February, 2005 to assess the situation on water distribution, solid and liquid waste, in relation to public health, as recommended by the Committee at its 28th session (**28 COM 15B.39**) and with the support of the Italian Government through the Italian Funds-in-Trust. The mission was also developed as an initiative to further assist the State Party and Lamu Old Town to improve the general standard conditions needed for the property to strengthen its status of World Heritage, in particular by formulating a preliminary phase for a rehabilitation project.

During the mission the experts (international and national) have analysed the urban environment of Lamu Old Town, the health situation of its population, the open drainage system as well as the urban cycle of water, water supply quality, wells, solid waste and excreta disposals. The experts assessed the physical situation of the existing water and wastewater infrastructures and the need for their improvement. Special attention was given to the Shella water catchments area (Shella sand dunes) as requested by

the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004).

The mission's main result in terms of analyzing the local situation was that it discovered an inappropriate service provision of water which, together with peripheral poverty, increasing unbalance between local and foreign population with an inadequate sanitation system constitute the major constraint to a proper management and conservation of Lamu Old Town World Heritage site. In their assessment report and rehabilitation project proposal, the experts suggested a pilot project targeting minimal hygienic conditions necessary to bring about a sanitary and social improvement. This includes the amelioration of the water supply and the drainage and sewerage systems as well as community solid waste collection initiatives. The report outlines designs and budgets of the necessary rehabilitation project for the implementation of a minimum, optimum and ideal rehabilitation scenario. It also contains proposals for additional hydro-geological studies for Lamu's water catchment area.

The mission report also emphasized the need of protecting the vital water catchment area in the sand dunes of Lamu Island, from uncontrolled and illegal development.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.39**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Acknowledges the receipt of a Status Report of Lamu Cultural Site, prepared by National Museums Kenya, Lamu Town planning and Conservation Office;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to initiate and develop a Management Plan for Lamu Old Town;
5. Recommends that the State Party implement and address the recommendations made by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), including to research the possibility to extend the core and buffer zone of the site, to include the Shella Sand Dunes and the mangrove area on Manda Island, to ensure the integrity of the World Heritage Property;
6. Takes note of the findings of the UNESCO Mission to assess the situation on water distribution, solid and liquid waste, in relation to public health, and welcomes the pilot project targeting minimal hygienic conditions necessary to bring about a sanitary and social improvement;

7. Invites donors to support the project for the rehabilitation of Lamu's water and sanitation structures as well as its solid waste management;
8. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the 2003 UNESCO/ICOMOS mission, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

36. Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) (C 116 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1988

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

22nd sessions of the Bureau and the Committee

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint mission World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS, April 2004

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

In 1998, the Committee identified the following threats, amongst others: dilapidation of dwellings, sanitation problems, socio-cultural changes.

Current conservation issues:

From 17 to 18 February 2005, the World Heritage Centre sent a mission to Djenné to assess the conservation measures undertaken by the State Party since 1998. The mission reported on the progress made in the implementation of the Programme for the rehabilitation of mud brick architecture of the Town. This programme was launched in 1996, in the framework of the bilateral cooperation between the State Party and The Netherlands. The main objectives of the programme were to restore the deteriorated *banco* (mud brick) houses, set up an economic system that would ensure their annual maintenance, and resolve the sanitation problems. The first phase of this programme was completed in January 2003. The mission observed that activities funded by The Netherlands produced very positive results with a visual impact on the major conservation problems faced by the Town, making it one of the rare World Heritage towns today with an urban and architectural unity entirely of mud brick. In particular, the mission noted the following achievements:

- a) 98 dwellings of the "toucouleur" and "marocaine" types have been completely restored

thanks to the training of local masons in the traditional *banco* technique ;

- b) A very economical pilot system for wastewater treatment introduced in 2002, and based on the installation of a wastewater infiltration system outside each house, has eradicated stagnating wastewater, which was often the cause of illness and weakened the walls of the houses. A technical evaluation of this system, carried out in 2003 by the Civil Engineering and Geosciences Faculty of Delft (The Netherlands), noted no loss in soil density or backup of infiltrated wastewater. In view of the considerable improvement in the sanitation of the experimental zones, this system is being extended to the entire town;
- c) Lateric earth has been used instead of tar for the peripheral road of the town, as well as teak poles imported from Ghana for the installation of electricity. The choice of these materials, which are compatible with the town environment, shows the will of the State Party to prioritise preservation of the outstanding universal value of the property in the planning of its major infrastructure projects.

With regard to town management, the mission was informed, by the Cultural Mission of Djenné, of increasingly intense urban development pressure in Djenné. With the delimitation of the property spread over a radius of four km around the city (due to the presence of nearly 70 archaeological properties identified at the time of inscription), the building of new houses outside the old town by inhabitants is forbidden. This situation causes constant conflict between some inhabitants, the local municipal authorities and the Ministry of Culture. The State Party has expressed the wish that this protective boundary be reviewed, notably to the east of the town, where, according to its studies, the archaeological properties are completely infiltrated by alluvia. The Ministry of Culture has also requested assistance from the World Heritage Centre to seek a solution to free new areas for urban development. The mission also noted the lack of a development plan that would enable efficient town management.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7B.36

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Takes note of the results of the mission undertaken by the World Heritage Centre;
3. Congratulates the State Party for all the conservation activities undertaken since 1998 in order to improve the state of conservation of the property;
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM to undertake, in collaboration

with the State Party, an evaluation mission for the property during which alternative solutions will be studied to relieve urban development pressure, and to make recommendations to the Committee for consideration at its 30th session.

37. Island of Gorée (Senegal) (C 26)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1978

Criteria : C (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.33

28 COM 15B.42

International Assistance:

1981 : US\$ 33,071, emergency assistance to consolidate the endangered West Battery;

1981 : US\$19,529, training of technicians responsible for the rehabilitation of the Island.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission in 2004

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

Site management; threatened state of the buildings; maritime erosion.

Current conservation issues:

During its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to provide a report on corrective measures to limit the negative impact of the replica of the Gorée/Almadies Memorial on the site, as well as on progress made in setting up an administrative system to appoint a site manager, for consideration by the Committee at its 29th session in 2005.

In a letter of 28 January 2005, the State Party provided the following information:

- a) A decision had been taken by the Ministry of Culture and Listed Historic Heritage to implement alternative measures regarding destruction of the Memorial.
- b) An administrative decree for the creation of a World Heritage Site manager position had been circulated for approval.

At the time of the preparation of this document, the World Heritage Centre had not received information from the State Party on details of the strategy for the implementation of corrective measures and on the effective appointment of a manager for the Island of Gorée responsible for the elaboration of a Management Plan for the property. Moreover, the

buildings in the northern zone of the Island (William Ponty School, School of the Sisters, Pavillion of the Sisters and Annexes, Military Hospital, Guardian's Camp) remain seriously threatened with collapse. The World Heritage Centre has not received information on the measures to be taken to halt maritime erosion, or the follow-up by the State of Qatar to the request for financing a project for the protection of the littoral of the Island of Gorée.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7B.37

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision 28 COM 15B.42 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Expresses its concern over information concerning the grave threats of collapse that continue to endanger the buildings in the northern zone of the Island (William Ponty School, School of the Sisters, Pavillion of the Sisters and Annexes, Military Hospital, Guardian's Camp), as well as the lack of a solution to halt maritime erosion to the west of the property;
4. Stresses the need to undertake urgent work in order to prevent the collapse of the buildings in the northern zone of the Island and halt maritime erosion;
5. Reiterates its request inviting the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a report, by 1 February 2007, on the strategies that will be implemented regarding corrective measures to limit the negative impact of the replica of the Gorée/Almadies Memorial on the site, and on progress made in putting in place an administrative system to appoint a site manager, for consideration by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

38. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2000

Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

None

International Assistance :

None

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

Site management; buildings threatened with collapse; flooding and disorder caused by the modification of the mouth of the Senegal River

Current conservation issues:

Since 2000, year of the inscription of the Island of Saint-Louis on the World Heritage List, conservation activities have been carried out with the support of France under the France-UNESCO Convention for Heritage and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This support comprises the provision of French expertise to the World Heritage Centre, as well as decentralised cooperation between the town of Saint-Louis (Senegal) and the urban community of metropolitan Lille (France), in order to strengthen conservation and presentation efforts for the site.

At the time of its inscription, the property had no appropriate management mechanism to deal with the preoccupying state of the built heritage. In order to respond to this need, several technical assistance and capacity-building operations were undertaken and a site manager was trained in the framework of the Africa 2009 Programme. The elaboration of a Conservation and Presentation Plan for the town, under the authority of the Senegalese Directorate for Cultural Heritage, was launched within the framework of the France-UNESCO Convention. In addition, the services of a French heritage architect were made available to the Cultural Heritage Directorate of Senegal, to finalise the Conservation Plan and follow up on progress achieved on the buildings within the listed perimeter, in coordination with the technical services of the town. The French authorities are also supporting the creation of a 'heritage house' that will serve as an information centre and coordination structure, and will house an apprentice school for architectural restoration and branches of the conservation professions.

Parallel to conservation and presentation activities, the Island of Saint-Louis has been retained as one of the pilot properties for the French intersectoral project for poverty alleviation through the optimisation and management of cultural resources. Seed money has been provided, enabling the implementation of restoration operations and the improvement of dwellings.

A UNESCO mission comprising French and World Heritage Centre experts was sent to the Island of Saint-Louis, from 26 March to 3 April 2004, to evaluate the built heritage inscribed on the World Heritage List and propose appropriate measures for the management of the property to the governing authorities. The mission report submitted to the World Heritage Centre indicated the following:

- a) The urban property is threatened and the Faidherbe Bridge, linking the town to the listed ensemble, is in a serious state of degradation. Interventions by the municipality likely to alter the aspect of this landscape with unsuitable constructions, opaque fences or vegetal barriers implanted with no prior analysis of the possible

visual impact or regard for the harmony and the continuity of the areas were noted;

- b) About 60 public and private buildings are today seriously threatened with collapse. This danger is characterised by the dilapidated state of all of the supporting masonry components, including the balconies, and the lack of watertightness of the covering elements (terraces and roofs). The presumed causes of this threatening situation are diverse: lack of maintenance by the owners, illegal occupation, deliberate abandon or with speculative intention. Many of these endangered houses are either inhabited by squatter families, or are unoccupied through choice and control of an identified owner, or are in a state of ruin. The mission also stressed that these buildings presented an imminent danger, and occupying families risked being the primary victims of the inevitable collapse of the constructions - a recent collapse had caused the death of a child, buried in the rubble. Expertise and concertations have stressed the need for urgent intervention by the competent responsible services, in order to consolidate the buildings threatened with ruin and protect the occupants from imminent danger.

The mission report further stressed the urgent need for the preservation and presentation of the old buildings, to halt the phenomenon of their degradation and demolition that encouraged:

- i) real estate speculation and the eviction of the poorest inhabitants;
- ii) local market construction trend (promoters and entrepreneurs) towards new constructions rather than the restoration of existing buildings;
- iii) abandon of the Island by the middle classes in favour of the outskirts of the town;
- iv) construction of architecturally heteroclit buildings, in total contradiction with the historic heritage that irremediably distorts the historic coherence of the urban site.

In conclusion, despite efforts made thanks to support from France, the integrity of the property remains gravely threatened and its state of degradation is cause for serious concern. Too often architectural witnesses to the past disappear through demolition and numerous unauthorised or poorly supervised « restoration » projects. New public or private buildings, authorised or not, are not in harmony with the exceptional urban ensemble (scale, type, style) and occult the subsisting elements. In January 2004, the Director of the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the Ministry of Culture and Listed Heritage of Senegal expressing concern.

The Government of Belgium (Walloon Region, City of Liège) also supports the conservation activities in Saint-

Louis and its assistance has in particular enabled the restoration of the old Territorial Assembly that will house the future Regional Council.

UNESCO made a proposal to the Senegalese authorities to organise, jointly with the municipal authorities, an event in Paris convening the different partners and international funding institutions involved, to encourage the different parties to work together towards a common goal to safeguard this World Heritage property. It should also be noted that in October 2004, a joint expertise and evaluation mission comprising representatives of UNESCO, France, and the urban community of Metropolitan Lille, again went to the Island of Saint-Louis to oversee the installation of the inventory database and the site plan carried out in the framework of the decentralised cooperation Saint-Louis–Metropolitan Lille Urban Community, by the Architectural School of Lille (France).

Draft decision: 29 COM 7B.38 Rev

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev.Rev**,
2. Recalling that in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 4 of the Convention and paragraph 177 of the Operational Guidelines, a property can be considered in danger when major operations are necessary for its conservation;
3. Encourages the Senegalese authorities and the local authorities to continue to work together for the conservation and the presentation of the site, in particular by collaborating in creating a 'heritage house';
4. Invites the State Party to pursue its efforts for the conservation and protection of the Island of Saint-Louis, and encourages support from the rest of the international community;
5. Also invites the State Party to organise at UNESCO Headquarters a meeting of the funding institutions and the major international community partners active in Senegal;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM to undertake, in collaboration with the State Party, a mission to evaluate the state of conservation of the property, and to present a report to the Committee for consideration at its 30th session in 2006.

39. Robben Island (South Africa) (C 916)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1999

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.34

28 COM 15A.40

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN mission 6 to 12 February 2004

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

Visitors pressure; Lack of comprehensive Conservation Management Plan ; lack of specific annual plans of operation; lack of human resources ; difficulties with operational aspects of maintenance and conservation implementation including lack of preventive maintenance funding and programming ; Lack of appropriate conservation of the built heritage ; Lack of proactive management of tourism pressure ; Lack of integration of natural values in management of site.

Current conservation issues:

Following the joint ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN mission to the property in February 2004 the State Party was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) (Decision **28 COM 15A.40**) to implement the recommendations of the mission and to submit a detailed report on its progress. The State Party forwarded to the Centre on 3 February 2005 the following documentation prepared by the Robben Island Museum (RIM), which was transmitted to the Advisory Bodies for review: Progress Report, Services Section Report for incorporation in the Robben Island Museum Integrated Management Plan, Draft Project Proposal Extended Environmental Monitoring at Robben Island World Heritage property in cooperation with Earth Watch Institute, Draft of Memorandum of Understanding between Robben Island Museum and The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). The World Heritage Centre noted with satisfaction that RIM had followed up on the mission by establishing a task force to steer its implementation and that a Heritage Manager had been appointed. The World Heritage Centre has also been informed that conservation and heritage management activities are being organized for the Robert Sobukwe house and for the Lime Stone Quarry.

ICOMOS and ICCROM noted that the reality of managing a property which is under tremendous visitation pressure places the Robben Island Museum in a very difficult position, and potentially put the property at increasing risk.

ICOMOS and ICCROM further noted, on the basis of the presented Progress Report, that progress to date has been slow and that of the five major

recommendations particularly emphasized by the World Heritage Committee, the following appeared:

- a) Whilst planning for an integrated Conservation Management Plan has recommenced, substantial work still needs to be done in order to complete the exercise;
- b) The Phase 1 ‘Tourism Development Plan’ has not been reviewed or its recommendations implemented, leaving continued tourism pressures on the site;
- c) The Memorandum of Understanding with the Public Works Department has not yet been formalised. The annual resource provision and timing for maintenance and conservation works for the property remains uncertain;
- d) The 2003 Memorandum of Understanding with South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) has been agreed but is still not yet signed. No information is available as to whether the mission recommendation for SAHRA to “second staff into RIM to assist in getting the conservation, maintenance and heritage issues regularized” has yet been considered;
- e) The establishment of a World Heritage Management Authority for the Island, to reinforce the work of the Heritage Manager, has not yet been agreed;
- f) Regional environmental and institutional linkages have been initially explored with potentially useful results, the outcomes of which are yet to be seen.

The World Heritage Centre took note of a newspaper article dated 21 April 2005 reporting that the co-interim director and former prisoner on the Island, was appointed as Chief Executive Officer. His appointment is a welcome development in view of the restructuring of the management system on Robben Island. ICOMOS and ICCROM recommend that a framework of priorities and timetable for action, including identification of funding sources, need to be prepared.

The fact that the RIM progress report addresses only five of the 19 issues recommended for implementation by the Mission Report must also be a matter of concern. Of the five concerns addressed by the RIM Progress Report, the details given are not sufficient to provide a clear picture of the nature of progress made so far. Apart from the integrated Conservation Management Plan no timeframes are given for the other issues. There is no indication in the progress report as to what has been done to investigate or resolve the remaining matters.

ICOMOS and ICCROM conclude that, with a vulnerable property such as Robben Island, physical deterioration and tourism impacts can have permanent effects that will damage its World Heritage values.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15A.40**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party and the Robben Island Museum for starting the implementation of the recommendations of the ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN mission,
4. Takes note of the appointment of the Robben Island Museum Chief Executive Officer;
5. Encourages the State Party and the Robben Island Museum to continue the ongoing development of an integrated Conservation Management Plan and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2006**, for the consideration of the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
6. Urges the State Party and the Robben Island Museum to set priorities for the implementation of all the recommendations made by the ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN mission;
7. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the ICOMOS/ICCROM/IUCN mission by **1 February 2006**, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

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

40. Matobo Hills (Zimbabwe) (C 306rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2003

Criteria: C (iii) (v) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 8C.59

International Assistance :

Technical Cooperation for the preparation of a Management Plan, 2004: US\$ 14,800

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

None

Current Conservation issues:

Upon the request of the World Heritage Committee at the time of the inscription of Matobo Hills on the World Heritage List (**27 COM 8C.59**), the World Heritage Centre received the Matobo Hills Management Plan in December 2004.

When this property was presented to the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO, 2003), ICOMOS recommended deferring the nomination of the property to allow for a coordinating Management Plan to be prepared. The Committee chose to inscribe the property, requesting the establishment of an effective management committee composed of all the key stakeholders and the development of a management system designed according to the characteristics of the World Heritage property in its cultural and natural context.

ICOMOS notes that, although part of the property – the National Park - had a Management Plan the key issue justifying the need for a comprehensive World Heritage site Management Plan was the importance to provide a coordinating mechanism and to put in place a management process involving all key stakeholders: the National Park, local authorities, private land-owners, Chiefs, as well as custodians of shrines. As the property was inscribed as a living, dynamic and complex cultural landscape that encompassed both tangible and intangible elements – rock paintings and shrines that attracted people from a large area of Southern Africa – the Management Plan also needed to address both these elements, including the natural quality of the landscape which has such strong cultural associations. In addition, the large number of visitors brought problems of security and lack of respect for the sacredness of the area. The Plan therefore needed to address issues of cultural tourism.

The presented Management Plan successfully addresses all these issues. The overall need for this Management Plan is clearly spelt out in paragraph 6.4.2 of the Plan, which states that the existing management methods reflected institutional bias, which not only resulted in duplication of efforts, but also led to uncoordinated and less integrated conservation, management and marketing efforts, not yielding the desired results. More importantly, there was also antagonism and conflict amongst stakeholders as well as alienation of local communities. In one very important sentence it is said that: “It became apparent that isolated management approaches are not appropriate for the management of cultural landscapes, hence the development of more holistic, consultative and integrated approaches”. The

Management Plan aims to follow exactly such an approach.

A stakeholder body, the Management Committee, has been set up and its structure and function clearly set out. Meetings were held with community groups to draw them into the process. From this it appeared that although members of the traditional leadership had been involved in the nomination, information on the inscription and its meaning had not been passed down to local village communities. They did not feel part of the management of the landscape and indeed felt as if they were standing on the sidelines. These consultative meetings were crucial in understanding the need to empower local people to be part of the overall management process if they were to benefit from the inscription and be part of the overall management of the World Heritage property.

The Plan sets out very clearly the needs of the property in terms of research (particularly in terms of intangible qualities), the management of tourists in areas that have the capacity to accept them, the need for a firewood and general tree policy, and the need to promote sustainable agriculture as a means of protecting the landscape. It clearly lists threats and opportunities and then lists how these will be addressed. Part of the Plan is an Implementation Plan for the next five years. Although clearly resource implications exist for many of the actions identified, the Plan also sets out activities that can be implemented without substantial funding through coordination and sharing activities. It also points out that one of its benefits has been to underline the local communities' involvement in the overall cultural landscape and it hopes that promoting this could 'unlock significant resources from Non-Governmental Organisations'.

ICOMOS appreciated the Plan as being very honest, fair and balanced that sets out clear targets for this property but also maps new ways forward that involve more cooperation and the possibility of public-private partnerships.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.40

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **27 COM 8C.59**, adopted at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003),
3. Commends the State Party for having prepared a detailed Management Plan in a short time frame as well as for having established a management committee;
4. Encourages the State Party to implement the Management Plan 2005-2009 and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on future developments.

ARAB STATES

PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

41. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa'a) (Jordan) (C 1093)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2004

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

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 14B.22

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

ICOMOS Missions in July 2003 and March 2005

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

The ICOMOS Evaluation of the nomination had stressed the following issues: no management structure, no management and conservation plans, lack of security due to open trenches and unstable structures

Current conservation issues:

The Committee, at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), decided to inscribe the property on the World Heritage List, and requested the State Party to submit its annual work plan for the first year following the inscription. No information was provided at the time of drafting this document, other than a letter from the Department of Antiquities indicating a stability problem at one of the towers.

At the time of drafting the present document, the report of the monitoring mission had not yet reached the Centre. Therefore, whatever information received prior to the 29th session of the Committee will be reported orally.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7B.41

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 14 B.22**, adopted at its 28th sessions (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit to the World Heritage Centre an annual work plan for the first year following the inscription of the site;
4. Requests the State Party to report to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, on the

work carried out during the first year since the inscription of the property and to submit its plans for the coming years, for the consideration of the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;

5. Also requests the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out the second foreseen monitoring mission to the property, to review the progress achieved by the State Party on the implementation of these plans, and report to the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

42. Islamic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979

Criteria: C (i) (v) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.36
28 COM 15B.47

International Assistance:

272,900 US\$ up to 2003

Previous monitoring mission(s):

ICOMOS reactive monitoring missions in August 2002 and March 2005

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

Rise of the underground water level; Dilapidated infrastructure, neglect and lack of maintenance; Overcrowded areas and buildings; Uncontrolled development; Absence of a defined protection perimeter for the property and of a comprehensive Urban Conservation Plan; Absence of an integrated socio-economic revitalization plan linking the urban and the socio-cultural fabric of the city core; Lack of technical restoration and rehabilitation guidelines and principles and insufficient qualified human resources.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party provided the World Heritage Centre, under cover letter dated 25 January 2005, with a one-page report entitled "*A report about the activities of the administration of the annual conservation and self restoration*", accompanied by two tables, one listing 152 monuments, and the second giving the names of 13 monuments, presumably restored, and indicating their re-use. All these buildings bear an inventory number, corresponding probably to the national Registry.

The report refers to the "Engineering administration of Islamic and Coptic Antiquities" and its sub-administration responsible with the "annual conservation and self-restoration". It appears that the latter "makes the necessary surveys for the properties

[...], carries out the periodical conservation for each property and takes the necessary procedures to turn danger away from the monuments, such as: the Women's oratory in Al-Zahir Baybar's mosque in Qalyub, the Cotton Gins in the Barrages, the Al-Qady Yahya mosque in Boulaq, the Abu-Sa'od Al-Garhy mosque in Old Cairo and the Tameem Al-Rassafi mosque in Es-Sayyida Zainab". The report also states that the above Engineering administration tenders the works annually to specialized contractors.

An ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was carried out from 9-16 March 2005. The report produced gives background on the establishment of the *Al-Qahira Al-Tarikhyya* project for Historic Cairo and of the "Advisory Committee for Historic Cairo Studies and Development Centre". It provides an assessment of the restoration process which "has taken a very positive approach to preservation of authentic qualities in design, material and workmanship. [...] The use of Portland cement for plasters and mortars has been banned except for purely structural purposes, [...] and the technical analysis and documentation of the work being done is now of better standard than it was before." The expert reviews some successful restoration projects such as Beit Sitt Wasila, Prince al Amir Taz Palace, Sabil-Khutab of Mohammed Ali Ismail, however stressing the danger of too many tourism-oriented functions. He also underlines the need of "precaution with respect to keeping the quality of patina and sign of age as part of the authentic feeling of a monument, rather than complete renewal". The expert also regrets that little attention is being paid to the interrelation between the building and the immediate surroundings, the extensive use of modern light fixtures, the lack of involvement of the general public. Finally, the monitoring report reiterates the need of designating "Historic Cairo within clearly defined borders including an appropriate buffer zone as one planning district [...], and that initiatives be taken to establish a responsible body for coordination of projects, improvement of infrastructure and social betterment of the living conditions".

Regrettably, the report submitted by the State Party does not provide any kind of information on the eventual implementation of the recommendations formulated at the 2002 International Symposium on the Conservation and Restoration of Islamic Cairo, nor of those made by the Committee at its 27th and 28th sessions. These included:

- a) Designating Historic Cairo as a Special Planning District, with buffer zones, in accordance with the provision of the *Operational Guidelines*,
- b) Preparing a comprehensive Urban Plan for the Conservation and Development of the Old City, whereby the conservation of historic buildings would be accompanied by appropriate

development regulations to encourage the rehabilitation of the urban fabric so as to ensure its compatibility with the historic character of Islamic Cairo;

- c) Organizing regular meetings among Egyptian and International experts to review and discuss current conservation issues and projects.

Although considerable efforts are clearly expended towards the rehabilitation of numerous monuments in the old city, the absence of implementation of the above recommendations demonstrates that the State Party does not demonstrate the planning capacity to guarantee that the outstanding universal value of the property, its authenticity and integrity will be maintained, nor to initiate the process which would ensure long-term preservation, notably the elaboration of a comprehensive urban conservation plan.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7B.42

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined the Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.47** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commending the State Party for the actions taken to rehabilitate the property by implementing conservation works on the historic buildings,
4. Regrets that no progress has been made on the implementation of the recommendations made by the International Symposium held in Cairo in February 2002, and particularly to:
 - a) designate Historic Cairo as a Special Planning District, with buffer zones, in accordance with the provision of the Operational Guidelines, and
 - b) prepare a comprehensive Urban Plan for the Conservation and Development of the Old City, whereby the conservation of historic buildings would be accompanied by appropriate development regulations to encourage the rehabilitation of the urban fabric so as to ensure its compatibility with the historic character of Islamic Cairo;
5. Urges the State Party to take the immediate necessary steps to elaborate the requested Plan and all related actions, otherwise facing the loss of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to identify the exact boundaries of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone on a detailed topographic map at the appropriate scale and to submit it, together with a report on the progress made in the implementation of the above

recommendations by 1 February 2006, for the consideration of the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

43. Ksar of Aït-Ben-Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)

Year of inscription of the World Heritage List:
1987

Criteria: C (iv) (v)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.41

28 COM 15B.46

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$ 79,000

Amount approved in 2005: US\$ 20,000

Previous monitoring missions:

Reactive monitoring mission 11-12 September 2003; World Heritage Centre mission 29-30 November 2003; mission to observe the state of conservation of the property carried out by the UNESCO Office in Rabat, 8-11 March 2005.

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

Near total abandon of the property; increased offences in the old ksar and its degradation; uncontrolled tourism and visitor pressure; lack of a Management, Conservation and Presentation Plan for the property; gully erosion with the development of nearly 28 ravines (from 100 to 200 metres); rock falls due to erosion laying bare the slope of the property and encouraging the displacement of large blocks of stone.

Current conservation issues:

Referring to the decision of the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), the State Party sent to the World Heritage Centre in January 2005, a progress report on the implementation of the measures for the conservation of the Ksar, stating in particular that the property was inscribed on the National Cultural Heritage List by the Ministry of Culture (Decree N° 20104 of 10 April 2004).

The State Party explained that a task force composed of representatives of the Centre d'études et de recherché pour les Kasbah de l'Atlas du Sud (Centre for Studies and Research for the Kasbah of the Southern Atlas), the Delegation of the Ministry of Culture, the Division of Town Planning (Ouarzazate Province), the Delegations for Culture and Housing and the local authorities (Aït Zineb rural community), ensured the control of vandalism, and ordered the demolition of constructions that threaten the integrity of the property (in a previous report, dated January 2004, the creation of this task force had already been announced). In 2004 this task force carried out

several monitoring missions (the most recent on 26 November 2004). However, no reports of these missions have been transmitted to the World Heritage Centre.

A Programme entitled "Agenda 21" for the period 2005-2006 has been created, with UNDP technical and financial support. The State Party stressed that this project will constitute an essential step in the programme for the conservation and rehabilitation of the Ksar.

The establishment of a Management Committee in charge of monitoring the elaboration and implementation of the Management Plan, as well as the execution of actions for the conservation and presentation of the property, foreseen in the "Pact for the Safeguard of the Ksar" (adopted following the local workshops held in November 2003), has yet to be confirmed.

Following the request of the State Party, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee approved, on 18 February 2005, a request for international assistance for the elaboration of a Management Plan for the property. The need to coordinate this assistance with the creation of the Management Committee for the property that has legal authority, with adequate resources and financial means to ensure the preparation of the Management Plan and its application, was already recommended by the World Heritage Committee at its previous sessions.

The most recent mission to the property in March 2005 by representatives of the UNESCO Rabat Office observed that no visible action had been undertaken and the state of conservation of the property remained unchanged. The report also stressed that access to the property is hazardous, as visitors must walk on sand bags between which water from the oued flows; a serious accident could easily occur, whilst the simple placing of supports would ensure secure conditions. It should be recalled that one of UNESCO's missions to the property recommended action to be taken to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants and ensure the security of the area. A project for the construction of a bridge was prepared and submitted to the national authorities.

In spite of the efforts of the State Party, the state of conservation of the Ksar remains unchanged over several years and fully fulfils the conditions foreseen in the texts for the application of the 1972 *Convention* for the inscription of a property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in respect of the proven dangers (serious deterioration of the materials; serious deterioration of urban or rural space, or the natural environment; significant loss of historic authenticity), as well as with regard to potential danger (lack of a conservation policy).

Since the 24th extraordinary session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, held in 2000, the State Party was called upon to request the inscription of the Ksar Ait Ben Haddou on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Today this inscription has become necessary and urgent in order to enable the immediate mobilisation of all parties concerned with the safeguard of this property before its degradation becomes irreversible.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.43

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision 28 COM 15B.46, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for the inscription of the property on the List of National Heritage and for having put into place institutional consultation and coordination mechanisms ;
4. Regrets that, despite the State Party's efforts, the state of conservation of the property has remained unchanged for the past years and that the establishment, requested by the Committee several times, of a management structure with legal authority, adequate financial resources and means to ensure the immediate preparation of the Management Plan for the property and its application, has not yet been completed ;
5. Expresses its deep concern in the face of the situation that is incompatible with the maintenance of outstanding universal value of the property, that had justified its inscription on the World Heritage List in 1987 ;
6. Urges the state Party to put into place, by **1 February 2006**, the management structure requested in paragraph 4 above, and to report to the World Heritage Centre ;

Option 1

7. Decides to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Option 2

7. Decides to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger on **1 February 2006** if the above mentioned measures are not implemented.

**100. Archaeological site of Volubilis (Morocco)
(C 836)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1997

Criteria: C (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

None

International Assistance:

1999: US\$ 7,500

Previous monitoring mission(s):

1999: Expert mission

2003: World Heritage Centre Mission

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

Risks due to development pressures; need to preserve the landscape

Current conservation issues:

At the end of 2004, the World Heritage Centre received information from the Institute of Archaeology of the University College London which, through a cooperative agreement signed with the Ministry of Culture of Morocco, collaborates with the authorities responsible for the property, in the fields of research, conservation, presentation and management. This information, which concerned the implementation of major building projects at the periphery of the property, was confirmed by the UNESCO Rabat Office, and followed by a request from the Moroccan authorities for a mission to be sent to the site. The mission was undertaken from 2 to 7 April 2005.

The mission concluded that the property presented no serious conservation problems; however, «it was necessary to improve the maintenance of all of the walls (treatment of their edges) and pavements (weed control), [...] as well as more regular conservation work on the mosaics (consolidation, weed control and treatment of algae, fungi and lichen)”.

The current development project concerning a visitor centre and administrative and scientific infrastructure for the property, initiated by the Ministry of Culture due to the dilapidated state of the existing buildings, can be summarised as follows:

- Demolition of all the existing buildings;
- Construction, within the boundaries, of new structures that do not obstruct the view of the site from outside;
- Designation of these structures: conservators' quarters, administrative offices, lodging for visiting archaeologists, stores and restoration laboratory; and welcome area (ticketing, souvenir shop, restrooms, and cafeteria);
- Creation of a site museum;
- Creation of a theatre for the Volubilis festival.

Although appreciating the quality of the architectural design adopted by the team in charge of the project, as

well as the efforts for maximum integration within the landscape, the mission nevertheless highlighted certain problems requiring a revision of the project:

« The construction of a theatre or a fixed stage within the premises must be strictly avoided, all the more so as such a structure would only be used one week per year during the festival. In the event of a simple treatment of the area with temporary tiered seating, a semicircular form that would evoke an ancient theatre in a place where it did not exist and in a site where no structure of this kind has been identified should be avoided. [...]

The construction of the right wing of the proposed building poses major problems concerning the physical and visual impact on the property. The space foreseen for the exhibition room appears both too small for a proper site museum, and too large for a simple room for the introduction of archaeological remains, therefore not justifying a building of such importance. The very concept of a site museum should be reconsidered in the light of a detailed analysis of the objects intended for display. [...]

The construction of the left wing of the proposed building appears to respond to essential site management needs and can be envisaged. It is nevertheless suggested to modify the project in order to reduce the depth of the required terracing, even if it causes a slight protrusion of the structure in respect of the level of the land. [...]

The construction of the welcome area (ticketing, restrooms, cafe, restaurant) is not an immediate necessity as these facilities already exist. However, should it be decided to replace the existing structure – considered to be unstable or aesthetically unsatisfactory – the present location should be retained, and, in any event, the natural slope towards the *wadi* which leads to the area of the remains should not be used for this purpose [...]

Should the creation of an orientation space be thought indispensable, it should preferably be conceived, not as an obligatory entrance to the site, but as an information point where, before or after the tour, visitors can gain a better understanding of the archaeological site. In this way it would not be a distraction from the approach to the site, nor a rupture to its integrity”.

Moreover, the 2003 mission had stressed the importance of the landscape surrounding the archaeological site that has long been recognised as closely associated with the history and life of the ancient city. Whilst recognising that it is not possible, from a cultural viewpoint, to separate the agricultural landscape from the archaeological site, the mission had recommended to envisage the widening of the perimeter of the listed site to include its landscape. This would guarantee the preservation of this exceptional place in the face of development

pressures. This approach could usefully be included in the preparation of a management plan, which could thus include a detailed study of the landscape surrounding the site and the measures for its management and preservation.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7B.100

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document **WHC-05/29 COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Regrets that the State Party did not inform the Committee, as is stipulated in paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, of the major building projects undertaken on the site of Volubilis and of the destruction of the existing infrastructures ;
3. Expresses its concern over the scope and volume of the new buildings, as well as the visual impact of these developments that threaten to modify the surrounding landscape, as well as the approach and the understanding of visitors;
4. Urges the State Party to consider the modification of the project in accordance with the recommendations of the expert mission and to submit a revised version to the World Heritage Centre and to ICOMOS for study, accompanied by a management programme for the new installations in accordance with the management plan for the entire property;
5. Further urges the State Party to define a buffer zone to ensure the protection of the area around the archaeological site and to take into account the surrounding landscape in its entirety, in particular the agricultural plain to the west of the property, which is inseparable from its historical origins;
6. Requests the State Party to submit, before **1 February 2006**, a report on progress made with the project and the recommendations of the present decision, for consideration by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

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

44. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1992

Criteria: C (ii) (v)

Previous Bureau / Committee deliberations:

27 COM 7B.35

28 COM 15B.43

International Assistance :

Total amount (up to 2005) : US\$ 87,600

Previous monitoring mission(s):

September 2001: reactive monitoring mission of the World Heritage Centre.

October 2003: February-March and November 2004: three expert missions in the framework of activities for training assistance to set up a technical school for traditional building professions in the Kasbah of Algiers.

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

Natural erosion; lack of maintenance of housing; loss of traditional conservation techniques; uncontrolled land-use; constant collapse of houses (three dead and others injured in May 2002); Conservation Plan existing but not operational; lack of coordination activities at the property.

Current conservation issues:

Referring to the decision of the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), the State Party sent in January 2005 to the World Heritage Centre a report on progress made in the implementation of the measures for the safeguard of the Kasbah of Algiers.

The draft executive decree for the creation and delimitation of the protected sector of the Kasbah of Algiers will soon be published in the *Journal officiel* by the concerned authorities. The conservation plan of the Kasbah of Algiers, elaborated by a National Bureau of Studies under the authority of the Wilaya, is currently being studied and harmonised by the Directorate of Cultural Heritage in regard to the legal text on the mechanisms for the establishment of a permanent conservation and presentation plan for the protected sectors.

In the present phase, restoration and presentation work is being carried out on listed monuments in the protected sector. The restoration project for the Citadel of Algiers, sponsored by the President of the Algerian Republic, received substantial funding that enabled the Ministry of Culture to undertake restricted

international consultation. An expert committee, presided by the Director of Cultural Heritage, was appointed, in particular to elaborate the specifications for the launching of the restoration operation for the Citadel of Algiers. It has also recently undertaken an important sanitation operation in the Kasbah. Other restoration and safeguarding projects have been conducted by the Wilaya of Algiers.

Within the framework of the project for assistance under the World Heritage Fund entitled “Apprentice School specialising in traditional building techniques of the Kasbah of Algiers”, three World Heritage Centre expert missions were undertaken in Algeria (October 2003, February-March and November 2004), to launch this operation in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the Wilaya of Algiers. The latter has made available a building to house the future documentation and information centre foreseen in the project.

In its report, the State Party solicits the assistance of the World Heritage Centre to designate an expert to participate, together with the working group set up by the Ministry of Culture, in the examination of the conformity of the permanent conservation and presentation plan for the Kasbah of Algiers, in regard to the legislation in force.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.44

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.43**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for having undertaken all of the actions for the safeguard of the Kasbah of Algiers, in particular the publication of the draft executive decree on the creation and delimitation of the protected sector and the elaboration of a conservation plan for the Kasbah of Algiers;
4. Invites the State Party to submit an international assistance request so that an expert can be made available to the Ministry of Culture to participate in the examination of the permanent conservation and presentation plan of the Kasbah of Algiers ;
5. Urges the State Party to pursue rehabilitation measures within the Kasbah of Algiers;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2007**, a report on the application of the decision of the Committee, for its consideration at its 31st session in 2007.

45. Memphis and its Necropolis - the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979

Criteria: C (i) (iii) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.37

28 COM 15B.50

International Assistance:

None

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

Urban encroachment; Infrastructure and tourism developments

Conservation issues:

A two-and-a-half page document entitled “*Report on the Supreme Council of Antiquities’ achievements for site-management in the Giza Pyramids area*” was sent to the World Heritage Centre by letter of 26 January 2005. This document refers to ‘an ambitious plan for the rehabilitation of the Pyramids area, as a significant place in the Memphis Cemetery, started in 1990 until now.’ It mentions briefly new entrances to the area, removal of the pre-existing asphalt road, ‘redigging and restoring the Queens’ pyramid and rehabilitating it for visits,’ redevelopment of the Sphinx square, as well as restoration of the Sphinx itself. Reference is made to the intervention of the President of Egypt to prevent the penetration of the plateau by a new road link. Work in progress covers the construction of a new entry point and a security fence encircling the entire Giza plateau, rehabilitation of the existing entrances and the Sphinx Square, and the reorganization of the area internally.

The document also mentions that the scientific excavations in progress have located the tombs of the pyramids’ builders and their township, whilst work on the western cemetery has been completed. Restoration and conservation work is being carried out on a number of known tombs.

While commending the State Party's commitment towards the preservation of the property, notably the cancelling of the project for the ring road and of the asphalt road around the Great pyramid, the Committee had requested the Egyptian authorities, at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003) (decision **27 COM 7B.37**), to "submit a report on the progress made in the development of Management Plans for the property". The presentation and restoration activities, as well as the improvement of tourism facilities mentioned in the report provided cannot be considered as "Management Plans" as such, but rather *ad hoc* responses to development and tourism requirements. Moreover, no information was given regarding the remaining areas of the property.

Draft decision: 29 COM 7B.45

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.50** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commending the commitment of the State Party towards the improvement of the Pyramids area, and the abolition of the ring road link project which was penetrating the Giza plateau,
4. Regrets that no Management Plan for the entire property has yet been developed and provided to the Committee as requested in previous decisions;
5. Encourages the State Party to develop such a Management Plan for the entire property, possibly through an International Assistance Request to the World Heritage Fund;
6. Requests the State Party to keep the Committee informed, via the World Heritage Centre, of any major project proposed on the property, according to the provisions (paragraph 172) of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit, by one **February 2007**, a report on the progress made in the development of this Management Plan for the entire property, for the Committee's consideration at its 31st session in 2007.

46. Bahla Fort (Oman) (C 433)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1987

Criteria: C (iv)

Years of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: 1988-2004

Previous Bureau/Committee deliberations:

27 COM 7A.19

28 COM 15A.19

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2000): US\$ 66,772

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Expert mission from 28 November to 5 December 2001; WHC Mission from 17 to 19 September 2002 and in December 2003.

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

Deterioration of the earthen structure of the Fort and the lack of appropriate conservation techniques ; Urban pressure essentially due to the project for a new market near the Fort, including proposals for the urban development of the area, and lack of management mechanisms, including legislation.

Current conservation issues:

At its 28th session, in 2004, the World Heritage Committee, noting with satisfaction the commitment of the State Party in view of the implementation of conservation measures and of the Management Plan of the Bahla Fort (inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1988), decided to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (Decision **28 COM 15A.19**).

The Committee requested the State Party to submit a report on the finalisation and adoption of the Management Plan, taking into account the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS (Decision **28 COM 15A.19**). At the time of drafting the present document (April 2005), no report has yet been submitted to the World Heritage Centre or to ICOMOS.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.46

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15A.19**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that no information has been provided by the State Party in response to this decision;
4. Requests the State Party to report, by **1 February 2006**, on the finalisation and adoption of the Management Plan, taking into

account the recommendations of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, for consideration by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

47. Medina of Essaouira (former Mogador) (Morocco) (C 753 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2001

Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.45

International Assistance :

Total amount (through 2005): US\$ 52,500 dollars

Previous monitoring mission(s):

7-17 September 2003: reactive monitoring mission linked to an expert mission for the elaboration of an integrated project for the safeguard of the Medina ; 17-20 February 2005: mission of the UNESCO Office in Rabat

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

Progressive deterioration of the built framework; absence of a rehabilitation policy for the Mellah Quarter (open air garbage dump, sewage runoff on the outer walls of houses, continuous collapse of the buildings); advanced deterioration of the maritime part of the fortified wall of the Medina; construction of two commercial complexes in the “buffer zone”.

Current conservation issues:

Referring to the decision of the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), the State Party addressed a report to the World Heritage Centre in January 2005 on progress made in the implementation of safeguarding measures for the property.

Concerning the steps for the creation of an administrative and technical structure responsible for the property, to facilitate the maintenance of its architectural and urban quality, the State Party recalled that, since the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, the Ministry of Culture has strengthened the Inspection of the Historic Monuments and Properties created in Essaouira in 1997. This authority is responsible for the monitoring and control of measures taken by the different stakeholders concerning the conservation, protection and rehabilitation of the built heritage. The Inspection team is headed by an architect and seconded by specialists in the field of heritage (monuments and sites conservators).

Monitoring is also ensured by the technical services of the municipality – headed by an architect – by the town planning services of the Province and by the provincial

delegation for housing and town planning. Besides these governmental structures, NGOs contribute actively to the conservation and rehabilitation efforts for the built heritage of the Medina, as is the case with the Agenda 21 Programme set up in 1996, and the Essaouira-Mogador Association. The latter organised, from 18 to 21 February 2005, the Fifth Session of the Convivial University of Essaouira on the theme of the sustainability and the consolidation of the social, cultural and economic renaissance of the City des Alizés. This session was held in the presence of the Prime Minister of Morocco, accompanied by several members of his Government as well as the King’s Councillor, Mr André Azoulay, founder of the Essaouira-Mogador Association. The World Heritage Centre regrets that it was not able to participate in this important event and requests the State Party to transmit the report of this event.

In response to the appeal from the World Heritage Committee, the State Party clarified in its report that the programme for the “revitalisation of the historic centres of Morocco” initiated by the World Bank, has had no follow up since 2002. The State Party made no comment on the Project for the Conservation and Presentation of the Medina of Essaouira elaborated following the World Heritage Centre mission in September 2002 and presented at the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee (Suzhou, 2004). Nor does it state whether this project was transmitted to the World Bank for consideration. Following the Committee’s recommendations, the Centre presented this project to the Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) during a meeting that was held at UNESCO on 25 October 2004. ICOMOS invited the State Party to continue, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre, the negotiations with the representatives of the World Bank for the implementation of the Project for the Conservation and Presentation of the Medina of Essaouira.

The World Heritage Committee, at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), was informed that neither the Conservation Plan for the Medina, nor the Master Plan for Territorial Development and Town Planning for the entire agglomeration, elaborated without consultation with the World Heritage Centre, mention the perimeter of the property inscribed on the World Heritage List nor the buffer zone. Since then, the Centre has received neither the documents, nor any information concerning their revision, prior to their approval by the national authorities, initially foreseen for 2004.

Following the Committee’s request for the submission of a report describing all the work being undertaken in the protected zone and in the buffer zone, threatening the integrity of the property, the State Party explained only that a contact and an on-going dialogue had been established with the authorities involved in the current development projects in the utility area near Bab Sbaa and Bab Doukkala. However, as stated in the report on

the state of conservation of the property prepared in February 2005 during the mission of the UNESCO Rabat Office, imposing buildings are being completed on the large square opposite the Doukkala Gate situated within the buffer zone, and in the commercial centre, situated between the Hotel des Iles and the entrance to the Medina, which have attained ground floor level. Other work concerns the Marrakech Gate, where there are plans for a square and a theatre. None of these projects have been transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for consideration.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.47

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.45, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that, in spite of the efforts of the State Party, the state of conservation of the Mellah Quarter and the North Wall has worsened, and that new projects having an irreversible impact on the authenticity of the property have been undertaken;
4. Invites the State Party to inform it, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, on the projects for the current transformation and new construction in the « protected zone and buffer zone» so that the Committee can recommend appropriate measures to ensure the preservation of the outstanding universal value of this property;
5. Invites the State Party to define, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, an implementation strategy, including the budget for the work, of the project for the conservation and presentation of the Medina of Essaouira presented at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004);
6. Encourages the State Party to reinforce the Inspection of the Historic Monuments and Sites created at Essaouira and to provide it with adequate human and financial resources to ensure the protection of the property ;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2006, a report on the implementation of the decisions of the Committee, for its consideration at its 30th session, in 2006.

ASIA AND PACIFIC

PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

48. Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur (Bangladesh) (C 322)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List : 1985

Criteria : C (i) (ii) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.42
28 COM 15B.53

International Assistance :

US\$ 55,000 up-to 2003 for Technical Co-operation and Training Assistance

22,650 Euros, up-to 2004 through the France-UNESCO Convention

Previous monitoring mission(s) :

UNESCO missions in October 2002 and February 2003

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

Lack of capacity in conservation techniques; Lack of management mechanism; Lack of monitoring system; Lack of human and financial resources.

Current conservation issues :

According to a report from the Government of Bangladesh received by the World Heritage Centre on 3 February 2005, a number of steps have been taken by the State Party, in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, to address the recommendations made by the UNESCO mission of October 2002. These include:

- a) The development of an inventory of all the terracotta plaques, which should be completed by March 2005;
- b) The production of 26 shelves to restore the terracotta plaques in an appropriate manner (the UNESCO Mission requested these shelves to “exhibit” the plaques);
- c) Sign boards have been installed at the property;
- d) The holding of a Workshop on the elaboration of an Archaeological research Strategy for Parhapur, in Dhaka, from 25 to 25 March 2004 (a report on this activity has been already presented to the Committee at its 28th session);
- e) The organization of a training activity on the conservation of the Terracotta plaques, from 22

October to 15 November 2004, addressed to technical staff from the Department of Archaeology. This was carried out through a request for training activities approved by the Committee at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003), for an amount of USD 35,000. A preparatory meeting for organizing this Workshop was held in Dhaka and Paharpur from 27 September to 3 October 2004 within the framework of the France-UNESCO Convention, involving the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Office in Dhaka and the Department of Archaeology, Bangladesh;

- f) As regards the appointment of at least five additional Ansars (Semi Armed Security force), the Ministry of Cultural Affairs is pursuing the matter, which is still not finalized;
- g) With regard to the need to study the effectiveness of existing drainage systems and ways of improving them, a Technical Co-operation request for a "Study of Existing Drainage Problems and Monitoring the Internal Moisture Conditions of the Monument" for the Paharpur property (US\$ 40,000) had been submitted to the Committee at its 28th session. Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, the Committee could not approve the request and requested the State Party to re-submit it in 2005. The authorities of Bangladesh did so, but increased the amount of the request to USD 45,000 to take into account the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies. This request will be examined by the Committee at its 29th session.

Finally, the moratorium concerning major conservation works at the Paharpur Monastery has continued.

Moreover, on 1 February 2005 the World Heritage Centre received two further requests concerning the organization of training activities in moulding techniques for the terracotta plaques and in computerized management of collections. Considering the limited resources under the World Heritage Fund, these requests were submitted by the World Heritage Centre for possible funding to the French Government under the France-UNESCO Convention.

With regard to the above-mentioned report, ICOMOS noted the significant efforts made by the State Party in addressing the long-term conservation of the terracotta plaques. It commented, however, that priority questions of property security and improving property drainage remain outstanding. ICOMOS is also concerned by two important related issues as follows:

No reference in the various reports is made to the strengthening of the management regime for the property;

The statement of significance proposed by the State Party in preparing the 2003 Periodic Report falls far short of capturing the sources of the outstanding universal value of this property. As site management efforts must be built to strengthen and ensure respect for these values in decision-making, this statement of significance should be strengthened.

On the other hand, the State Party should be encouraged to prepare and implement a management regime for the property according to the values recognized by the Committee at the time of designation.

In March 2005, finally, the World Heritage Centre received information from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh concerning the installation of a high telephone tower in the vicinity of Paharpur World Heritage property. The tower, erected at approximately 600 metres from the Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara, falls within an area which, according to the management provisions contained in the original nomination file, should have been placed under special protection (the extent of the buffer zone for this property was never clearly defined). The World Heritage Centre requested the Bangladesh authorities to provide further information on the visual impact of the tower on the landscape value of the property.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.48

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.53** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commending the State Party for the significant efforts made in addressing the conservation problems of the terracotta plaques,
4. Requests the State Party to pursue the efforts towards the strengthening of security at the property by the recruitment of five additional guards by the end of 2005 at the latest ;
5. Urges the State Party to conduct an environmental impact assessment of the telephone tower on the heritage and landscape values of the World Heritage property, and consider the possibility of moving the tower further away from the property ;
6. Requests the State Party, possibly with the assistance of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to redefine and document, through the appropriate cartographic documentation, the limits of the core and buffer zones of the property based on a stronger Statement of its Outstanding Universal Value ;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February**

2007, a report on the impact of the telephone tower on the visual integrity of the World Heritage property and the progress achieved in the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the Committee at its 31st Session in 2007.

49. Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing and Shenyang (China) (C439bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1987, 2004

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi)

Previous Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.43
28 COM 15B.54

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Urban development pressure; Tourism pressure; Lack of management mechanism (no legislation for buffer zone).

Current conservation issues:

On 30 January 2005, the World Heritage Centre received a fax-letter from China's State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH), informing the secretariat that the Government of Beijing Municipality attached great importance to the conservation of the Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing. The relevant authorities evaluated their conservation works and decided to redefine the buffer zone of the property. After intensive survey, analysis and research work, organizing public hearings, the authorities have identified a larger area as buffer zone so as to protect the urban historic fabric of Beijing surrounding the World Heritage property. The extended buffer zone is being put into municipal legislation procedure. Once the procedure is completed, the World Heritage Centre and the Committee would be informed.

However, at the time of preparing this working document, the State Party had not submitted to the World Heritage Centre a progress report containing the requested assessment of the remaining traditional architecture in the buffer zone, together with the finalized management plan for the Imperial Palace in Beijing. Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre has not received supplementary information including detailed maps indicating the protective boundary and

buffer zone of the property in line with the Committee Decision at its 28th session in July 2004.

Moreover, the World Heritage Centre had been informed that there were some on-going restoration works taking place within the Imperial Palace in Beijing. As there was a planned World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission to Lhasa (3-9 May 2005) which passed through Beijing, the Director of the World Heritage Centre suggested to the Chinese authorities that the mission might also undertake a field visit to the property, clarifying the situation and report on the state of conservation of the Imperial Palace in Beijing to the Committee at its 29th session.

The visit to the property by the Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission took place on 8 May 2005.

The Deputy Director-General of the Management Authority of the Palace Museum received the mission team and organized a debriefing on the current status of the restoration projects. Relevant project documents were also provided.

According to the principles of the Conservation Master Plan (in Chinese) of the Imperial Palace Museum 2003-2020, the restoration works at the property have been divided into four major stages: from 2003 to 2005; from 2006 to 2008; from 2009 to 2014 and from 2015 to 2020. According to a map showing the phased restoration works, those along the main axis, including main gates and palaces, will be finished by 2008, presumably in time for the Beijing Olympic Games. However, the principles of the Conservation Master Plan did not stipulate the details of the restoration treatments.

According to the Deputy Director-General of the Management Authority, the main purpose of the current on-going restoration work is to restore the glazed roof tiles, as 60% of all the roof tiling is damaged and causes leaking. These damaged roof tiles are being re-glazed and put back on the roof, or replaced by new ones. At the same time, damaged wood structures and paintings are checked and restored, as necessary.

Although the nature of the intervention is not extensive, it has resulted in considerable change as regards visual appearance, due to the newly re-glazed, clear and slightly monotonous yellow roof tiles dominating the skyline within the property.

Also, according to the Deputy Director-General of the Management Authority, there is a plan to construct a one-storey building within a courtyard of the Imperial Palace, to display the cultural relic's collection of the property.

The mission team was informed that there are also some major restoration works being, or to be, carried out at the World Heritage properties in Beijing, i.e. the

Summer Palace, an Imperial Garden in Beijing, and the Temple of Heaven: an Imperial Sacrificial Altar in Beijing.

The mission team informed the Site Management Authority and Chinese colleagues from SACH that, according to the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (February 2005), States Parties should inform the World Heritage Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of their intention to undertake major restoration or new construction which may affect the outstanding universal value of the property. In this case, such notice has not yet been given to the World Heritage Committee. The responsible persons assured the mission team that the Chinese authorities would provide the World Heritage Centre with the relevant project documents as soon as possible.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.49 Rev

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.54** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party for its efforts to protect the urban historic fabric of Beijing surrounding the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties by defining an extended larger area as buffer zone of the property;
4. Notes with concern that some major restoration works have been initiated at the World Heritage properties in Beijing, i.e. the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace, without seeking appropriate advice from the Committee;
5. Requests the State Party to provide information concerning the above-mentioned restoration projects to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, for examination by the Committee;
6. Recommends that a reactive monitoring mission be dispatched by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in order to assess the actual impact of the restoration works on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage properties in Beijing, i.e. the Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace, and to make appropriate recommendations for the consideration of the Committee at its 30th session in 2006;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2006**, a progress report on the achievements made to update the existing management plan of the

Imperial Palaces of the Ming and Qing Dynasties in Beijing as well as detailed maps indicating the buffer zone of the property with supplementary information on the characteristics and authorized uses in the buffer zone, for review by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

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

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

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

Previous Committee Decision(s):

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

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

March 2001, ICOMOS;
20-25 April 2003, UNESCO Expert/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 rehabilitation projects on the traditional urban tissue of the historic centre.

Current conservation issues:

By its Decision **28 COM 15B.55**, the Committee had asked the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to undertake a mission to the property and present a report at its 29th Session on the progress achieved by the State Party in the implementation of the recommendations made by the 2003 UNESCO/ICOMOS mission. At the time of writing of the present report (April 2005), the mission had not yet taken place, owing to climatic reasons. The findings and conclusions of the mission, scheduled for the period 5 to 8 May 2005, will be presented to the Committee at its 29th session.

With respect to the recommendation contained in paragraph 7 (h) of the above-mentioned Decision of the Committee, and with a view to enhancing the capacities of the management authorities of the historic city of Lhasa in conserving the World Heritage property, the World Heritage Centre supported a two-week study tour to Europe (France and Portugal) from 6 to 12 November 2004 for a Delegation of Tibetan experts and site managers organized by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China. The Delegation was led by the 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 introduced to examples of “best practice” on the conservation of cultural heritage in European historic cities. They also benefited from exposure to a number of different approaches and legal frameworks in the area of heritage conservation and urban development. During their stay in Paris, the World Heritage Centre introduced the Delegation to the objectives and procedures of the World Heritage conservation process. In particular, discussions focused on the state of conservation of the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, for which the Committee expressed concern over the uncontrolled urban development in recent years.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Documents **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,**
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.55 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Takes note of the findings and recommendations of the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS monitoring mission to the property as well as of the information provided by the State Party on the state of conservation of the property

51. Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (India) (C 1101)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2004

Criteria: C(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 14B.26

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

None

Current Conservation issues:

At the time of the examination of the Nomination File for the inscription of Champaner on the World Heritage List, in 2004, ICOMOS had recommended that the nomination be deferred to allow the State Party to provide a proper Management Plan and comprehensive planning which would integrate management of the 39 individual components of the property managed by the

Archaeological Survey of India, and which would clarify a statement of Outstanding Universal Value to be applied to the entire property. Although the Committee eventually inscribed the property on the basis of information provided by the State Party, it also requested the State Party to monitor the implementation of the Management Plan study already carried out.

The World Heritage Centre received a report from the State Party on 29 January 2005 on the operational status of management mechanisms, referring to various actions taken for the improvement of information and resource management, community awareness-raising and visitor management. The actions include: the initiation of the digital documentation of protected monuments; the establishment of a work-plan for the regular maintenance of the property, comprising removal of encroaching vegetation and re-patching of masonry; the holding of celebrations on the occasion of the “World Heritage Week”, involving students and local community; and the execution of facilities for visitors such as toilets, access ramps for the handicapped and the recruitment of tourist guides. During a national seminar on management of World Heritage Cultural properties, held in New Delhi on 27 and 28 January 2005, the State Government of Gujarat (i.e. the Institution responsible for managing the area), informed the participants that it was going to “provide proper access to the Kalika Mandir on the top of the hill, and provide ... the infrastructure for large numbers of religious pilgrims visiting the site”. The report mentioned also the decision of the State Party to set up a Task Force to meet under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary of the Government of Gujarat in order to review the progress made in Champaner.

Although the efforts made by the State Party to improve the conservation of the property are highly commendable, an integrated and functioning management framework for the property, built around the Statement of Outstanding Universal value recognized at the time of inscription, does not appear to be yet in place. In the current condition, the property will continue to suffer from ad hoc decisions which might have a negative impact on the heritage values of the property.

ICOMOS suggests that, building on the Management Plan study already carried out, efforts should be directed towards the establishment of a site management entity with full management authority for decision-making on property, answerable to the Archaeological Survey of India, and provided with all the necessary financial support and expertise.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.51

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev ,**

2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 14B.26, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the positive initiatives taken to strengthen the conservation of the property since its inscription on the World Heritage List in 2004;*
4. *Expresses its concern about the continuing lack of an integrated and functioning management framework for the conservation of this property,*
5. *Requests the State Party to establish the following:*
 - a) *A site-management entity with full management authority for decision-making on property, answerable to the Archaeological Survey of India, and provided with all the necessary financial support and expertise;*
 - b) *A Management Plan developed with full involvement of the established management authority, and built around the statement of Outstanding Universal Value, to ensure the integrated conservation of the property.*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the above-recommendations to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2007, for examination by the Committee at its 31st Session in 2007.*

52. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya (India) (C 1056 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2002

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

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.46
28 COM 15B.57

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission:

None

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

Lack of coordinated management system; increasing site visitation.

Current Conservation issues:

Following the request of the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), a joint mission was undertaken by ICOMOS and WHC from 21 to 27

April 2005 in order to assess the steps taken by the State Party to protect the World Heritage values of the property.

The joint ICOMOS/WHC mission examined a number of approaches for the management of this property. These included the approach developed by HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Authority) in consultation with the ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) over the last 18 months and reflected in the documents made available to the mission, "Mahabodhi Temple Complex World Heritage Property: Site Management Plan" (both the document itself and a hard copy of the accompanying power point presentation), "Heritage Led Perspective Development Plan for Bodhgaya, Vision 2001-2031: The Plan", and "Heritage Led Perspective Development Plan for Bodhgaya, Vision 2001-2031: The Work Studies". An alternative approach based on the protection of the World Heritage values of the property was also presented by a heritage conservation expert. Following discussions in Delhi and Bodhgaya as well as an on-site visit to the property and its surroundings, the mission made the following observations:

a) Progress made in refining the Site Management Plan prepared by HUDCO:

The HUDCO Site Management plan (April 2005) constitutes an admirable attempt to synthesize analysis around key development and conservation issues and to present recommendations for planning action to strengthen care of the property and adjoining buffer zones. However, as noted by the authors of the report, at this stage the Site Management Plan remains an advisory document containing only guideline suggestions for improvement. The mission also noted substantial weaknesses in the document particularly in the definition and elaboration of the property's Outstanding Universal Value, and that while there are many useful recommendations for enhanced control in the buffer zone of the Mahabodhi Temple Complex, until these are adopted and incorporated in the Development Plan proposed for Bodhgaya, these recommendations are not yet in force.

ICOMOS recommends that work on the Site Management Plan be suspended until such time as all necessary conditions for implementation of the plan are in place.

b) Need to establish an appropriate management mechanism:

The final part of the Site Management Plan document focuses on the "institutional mechanism for plan implementation". Recognizing that the authority of the BTMC (Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee), while established statutorily in 1949, is limited to the Mahabodhi Temple Complex area, and that control of the proposed buffer zone can only be achieved with commitment of adjacent landowners,

the report explores various integrated management mechanisms, from strengthening of the BTMC to creation of a new World Heritage management authority.

c) Need for an appropriate legal protection framework at both national and state levels to support the Site Management Plan:

While management of a World Heritage property normally calls for the highest possible protection at national level, in the present case the ASI feels strongly that national designation involving “monument protection” would be counterproductive, given the importance of the property as living religious heritage. Equally, the State Government of Bihar believes that with the BTMC playing a statutory role, there is no need for State level notification. The State Government is however prepared to extend its development control authority over the buffer zone through measures proposed in the Bodhgaya Development Plan.

d) Controls to be in place within the buffer zones proposed by the State Party at the time of inscription:

The HUDCO Site Management Plan document elaborates controls to be placed on development within the buffer zones identified at the time of inscription. The one km. radius buffer zone is broken into two “special areas”, one permitting no development within approximately 0.5 km from the Temple Complex, and the second limiting development to one storey between 0.5 km and one km away from the temple. The boundaries of the two inner buffer zones have been adjusted to suit ground conditions, and proposed control provisions within clarified and strengthened. A “further periphery” zone extending beyond the one km buffer zone to two km on the Temple side of the river is also identified. These provisions, as they involve a change to the buffer zone definition and protective regime proposed at the time of inscription should be reported to the World Heritage Committee, once adopted within the Development Plan for Bodhgaya.

e) Feasibility of the extension of the inscribed property to include the surrounding cultural landscape associated with the presence and enlightenment of the Lord Buddha in the region:

The mission observed importance of giving consideration of the possible long-term extension of this property beyond the Mahabodhi Temple Complex, to include the surrounding cultural landscape directly associated with the enlightenment of the Lord Buddha. The strengthening of the buffer zone boundary definitions and control provisions within the Development Plan for Bodhgaya provides a welcome measure of control over a large area outside the inscribed Mahabodhi Temple Complex. If adopted, these controls will ensure strong protection of the Outstanding Universal Value recognized by

inscription, and will also ensure maintaining the character of the immediately adjacent cultural landscape. It would be useful, in considering the consequences of a possible future extension, to assess the extent of the landscape beyond the buffer zone and periphery zones described above, to identify those segments of the vernacular landscape associated with all facets of the Lord Buddha’s search for, and attainment of enlightenment, including the Pragbodhi Hill, adjacent river banks etc.

f) The mission also noted the importance of the peer review process identified by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) and requested of the State Party. The peer review was carried out by two Indian professionals in March 2005. Their report was provided by the ASI to the UNESCO mission on 27 April 2005.

The State Party was also invited by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) to organise a series of stakeholder interventions in the process of improving and finalising the Management Plan. The authors of the Site Management Plan have described strong efforts on their part to include stakeholders at all levels within Bodhgaya in their consultation process.

The mission was made aware of a certain number of illegal encroachments taking place in the immediate vicinity of the inscribed property. While State and local authorities are taking measures to deal with these encroachments, it would be useful to accurately document existing conditions throughout the inscribed property, buffer zones and periphery zones, to provide a benchmark for future monitoring and reference.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.52

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined the Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,*
2. *Recalling Decision 28 COM 15B.57 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party for the extensive efforts involved in putting together Site Management Plan documents and in receiving and organising the joint ICOMOS/WHC mission of April 2005;*
4. *Requests the State Party to:*
 - a) *Address the weaknesses identified by the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Mission of April 2005 in the present Site Management Plan document (April, 2005), particularly those related to description of the property’s Outstanding Universal Value;*
 - b) *Adopt the provisions of the Site Management Plan of April 2005 within the Bodhgaya Development Plan being prepared by the Bihar State*

Government, including those that touch the extent of, and controls within the Bodhgaya buffer zone and periphery zone;

- c) *Explore an appropriate management mechanism for the property to protect its Outstanding Universal Value as well as the values of the adjacent buffer and periphery zone;*
 - d) *Establish appropriate forms of support, control and involvement at both national and state levels to put in place the management mechanism described in c) above;*
 - e) *Prepare a detailed property documentation of existing conditions within buffer and periphery zones, as a basis for future monitoring.*
5. *Encourages the State Party to explore the appropriateness of a long term extension of the Mahabodhi Temple Complex inscription to include the cultural landscape identified with the wanderings and enlightenment of the Lord Buddha in this region, and possibly to include other properties associated with the life of Buddha in India, for example, Sarnath (currently on the Indian national tentative list);*
 6. *Invites the State Party to give further consideration to the possible designation of the property under national legislation in order to ensure protection of its Outstanding Universal Value as well as its authenticity and integrity;*
 7. *Requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2006, on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.*

**53. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia)
(C 592)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1991

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (vi)

Previous Deliberations:

27 COM 7B.47
28 COM 15B.59

International Assistance :

1999 US\$ 5,000 Promotional Assistance for Borobudur and Prambanan Temple Compounds.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

16-20 April 2003, UNESCO/ICOMOS

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

Tourism development pressure; Uncontrolled vendors within and around the property; Lack of a coordinated site management mechanism; Absence of property presentation and interpretation and of a visitor Management Plan; Vandalism and littering from visitors.

Current conservation issues:

On 1 February 2005, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre a document entitled "Long Term Management and Strategy of Borobudur Temple".

The document contains a brief summary of the provisions that apply to the five existing zones established around the World Heritage property. No reference is made to the three issues raised by the Committee in its Decision of 2004, namely the ban on major road developments, the halting of any construction of major commercial centres, and the erection of a new tourist entrance and retail precinct (Jagad Jawa).

An overview is also provided of the various factors affecting the state of conservation of the property, including pressure from visitors. The document indicates as well some of the actions which are being taken, or are envisaged, to address the conservation problems at the property, in the short, mid and long-term. These concern mostly the physical deterioration of the structure of the monuments. With the support of the Borobudur Study and Conservation Centre, training sessions were organized by the UNESCO Office in Jakarta between October 2004 and January 2005 for the local population, including tour guides and craftsmen, to promote the development of local activities for income-generation and community participation in heritage conservation. Furthermore, a project for the establishment of a Geographic Information System (GIS) survey, including training for staff members of the site management authority, which had been initiated in September 2003, continued at the property level. On the specific issue of pressure from tourists, for which the Committee had requested that a Visitor Management Plan be prepared, the only measure proposed concerns the provisions of special sandals that the tourists could wear to reduce the impact on the site. This proposal could also bring benefits to the local community involved in the production of the sandals that could be sold to the tourists as a souvenir. A full list of actions to be undertaken is also provided, including monitoring, maintenance, documentation etc. However, no information is included on the actual progress made in their implementation.

Concerning a strategy for the sustainable development of the property, which had been requested by the Committee, the State Party refers to the Buddhist concept of the Mandala, as an appropriate

philosophical approach that could be adopted at Borobudur. No further elaboration is provided in the document on the actual implications of this approach for the activities to be carried out at the site. Mention is made however of a programme to develop cultural tourism in the area, with the full participation of the local communities. A Steering Committee, chaired by the Minister of Culture, and an Executive Team, led by the Governors of each concerned district, have been set up to guide the process. Again, no information is provided on the specific activities to be undertaken and on the progress made in their implementation so far. With respect to the overall management of the World Heritage property, no information is also made available on existing or proposed coordination mechanisms between the different responsible local authorities, and between them and the national authorities.

The report submitted by the State Party, while providing a good general coverage of the issues related to both the management of the archaeological property and of tourism, does not address sufficiently the points raised by the Committee in its Decision of 2004. The State Party should be commended on the efforts made to counter the various challenges for the conservation of the site, including by involving the local community. ICOMOS, however, noted that the recommendations for future action included in the document were too general and did not indicate whether the responsible management authorities have access to sufficient resources to implement the planning objectives.

The major issue regarding closer coordination of the management agencies responsible for the various components or zoning system of the property has yet to be addressed. This is a complex issue, particularly as various agencies are under the jurisdiction of different ministries and have quite different bureaucratic and policy objectives. It is not clear whether the proposed two-layer system of management (Steering Committee and Executive Team) is conceived as a permanent arrangement related to the overall management of the World Heritage property, or if its scope is limited to the specific initiative for the sustainable development of the region surrounding the monuments. In this particular respect, ICOMOS noted that more information should have been provided on the "Mandala" approach which the State Party envisages to adopt, and its operational implications.

On specific tourism management issues, the proposal to issue visitors with special sandals is practical, especially as it has the potential to engage local suppliers and achieve environmental improvements in Rawapening Lake. Thought should be given to accompanying the sandals with a well designed souvenir bag to allow visitors carry their own shoes along with them and reduce congestion at the sandal distribution location.

ICOMOS further stresses that, while visitor education to reduce littering and vandalism is a challenge with over two million visitors per annum, such programmes should be developed as much as possible. There are several recommendations contained in the recently published World Tourism Organization (WTO) *Guidebook on Tourism Congestion Management for Natural and Cultural Sites* that have direct relevance to Borobudur. In particular, the introduction of timed entry tickets; the introduction of visitor movement paths on and around the monuments; the introduction of interpretation signage located away from the monument, where guides can give explanations without disrupting other visitors; and continuing guide training and/or accreditation.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.59** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party for its efforts in addressing the recommendations of the 2003 UNESCO/ICOMOS mission and for the work undertaken to maintain the World Heritage value of the property despite the difficult socio-economic situation faced by the local community;
4. Notes, however, that the report submitted by the State Party did not address most of the specific concerns raised by the Committee in its above-mentioned Decision of 2004;
5. Requests the State Party to confirm in writing that no major road developments will be allowed within zones 1, 2 and 3 of Borobudur; that no major commercial complexes will be built within any of the protective zones 1 to 5 as defined in the current regulations applied to the property; and that the new proposed entrance and retail precinct (Jagad Jawa) in Zone 3 shall not be erected;
6. Further requests the State Party to:
 - a) *Develop a comprehensive Visitor Management Plan to mitigate the negative impact of mass tourism on the property and raise-awareness of the public on the need to protect the World Heritage property;*
 - b) *Provide detailed information on the existing institutional framework in place for the management of the property, with particular attention paid to the mechanisms established to ensure the appropriate coordination among all the concerned parties. Proposals for the*

possible strengthening of the current system should be also added, if appropriate;

- c) *Provide further details on the strategy being developed for the sustainable development of the area surrounding the Borobudur World Heritage property, elaborating in particular on the characteristics of the proposed "Mandala" approach and its operational implications.*
7. *Encourages the State Party to continue the organization of awareness-raising activities for local population and mobilize their active participation in heritage conservation and management;*
8. *Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2006, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in points 5, 6 and 7 above for review by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.*

54. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 115)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979

Criteria: C (i) (v) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.48

28 COM 15B.63

International Assistance :

2003: US\$ 2,752 Training (3 Iranian World Heritage properties)

2004: 5,710 Euros, France–UNESCO Convention

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO mission in January 2002

International urban planning expert and ICOMOS joint mission in July 2002

UNESCO Teheran Cluster Office-Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization mission in June 2004

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

Urban pressure; Tourism pressure.

Current conservation issues:

A joint UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office and Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization (ICHTO) mission took place in June 2004 to collect up-to-date information concerning the Jahan-Nama Commercial Complex. The mission undertook consultations with the representatives and key decision-makers of the national

and local authorities who have the authority to take action related to the Jahan-Nama Commercial Complex and the core and buffer zones of the World Heritage property of Meidan Emam. It emerged from the consultations that a National Technical Committee had been formed, including the main stakeholders and decision-makers, to review the matter and arrive at an agreed proposal for the reduction of the tower. This National Technical Committee had agreed to reduce the maximum height limit to 12 metres for the first section of the Complex nearest to this property (nearly 85 metres), in compliance with the legal provisions of the Urban Development Plan and Protective Zones of Esfahan Historic City, which were adopted by the national and local authorities in 1995. Concerning the tallest part of the complex, located at some 700 metres from the Meidan Emam, which currently reaches 58 metres in height, the Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization (ICHTO) had suggested that it be reduced to 24,5 metres, to avoid any visual impact on the World Heritage property. However, no decision has been taken so far on the matter.

According to a report from the Government of Iran, received by the World Heritage Centre on 31 March 2005, the case of the so-called Jahan Nama building complex has now been referred to the Esfahan Justice Department. The Union of Human Rights Defendants, an Iranian NGO, has officially filed a complaint to the Esfahan Justice Department regarding the negative impact of the building on the World Heritage Property. Moreover, ICHTO's Legal Department has submitted a penal complaint to the Esfahan Court in order to compel the Municipality of Esfahan and the constructor of the building to undertake the necessary action to mitigate the negative impact of this building on the World Heritage Property and its surroundings. H. E. the Governor of Esfahan also has submitted a legal complaint to the Prosecuting Attorney of Esfahan, based on the violation of construction criteria approved by the Commission (Article 5). In April 2005, the Court was expected to make a decision on whether or not the Jahan Nama building would be reduced in size. At the time of the writing of the present report, however, the World Heritage Centre had received no information on the outcome of this legal case.

At its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) the World Heritage Committee had also encouraged the State Party to continue its efforts to extend the World Heritage property of Meidan Emam, to include the historic axis consisting of the Friday Mosque, the Bazaars, the ancient bridges, the Zayanderoud River and the South Chahar Bagh Avenue. However, the World Heritage Centre has not received any information from the State Party regarding this matter.

Thanks to a contribution from the French Government, the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office will organize a Stakeholders' Workshop on Meidan Emam, Esfahan, which will be probably held in May or June 2005. The aim of this Workshop is to enhance information

exchange, understanding and co-operation between local and national authorities as well as other stakeholders involved in the conservation and management of Meidan Emam World Heritage property, and discuss a preliminary action plan to implement the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.54

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision **28 COM 15B.63** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004)
3. Having taken note of the information provided during the session concerning the decision made by the Esfahan Justice Department on the reduction of the Jahan-Nama Commercial Complex,
4. **Option 1**

Requests the State Party to pursue the implementation of the decision adopted by the National Technical Committee to reduce the height of the Jahan-Nama Commercial Complex, in order to minimize its negative impact upon the integrity of the setting of the Meidan Emam World Heritage property in Esfahan;

Option 2

Decides to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

5. Encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to nominate the extension of the World Heritage property of Meidan Emam, to include the historic axis consisting of the Friday Mosque, the Bazaars, the ancient bridges, the Zayanderoud River, and the South Chahar Bagh Avenue;
6. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a progress report on the actions undertaken to mitigate the negative impact of the Jahan-Nama Commercial Complex and on the possible extension of the World Heritage property, to be examined by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

55. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1997

Criteria: C (iii)(vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.53
28 COM 15B.66

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2001): US\$40,000 (including US\$ 20,000 in 2001 for Brick Conservation and Geophysical Survey of the Core Zone of the property)

Previous monitoring mission(s):

World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Mission (8-9 May 2004)

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

Impact of new structure of the Maya Devi Temple in the core area

Current conservation issues:

As requested by the 27th session of the World Heritage Committee (UNESCO, 2003), a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission was undertaken to Lumbini in May 2004 to assess the impact of the newly constructed Maya Devi Temple on the heritage value of the property as a whole. The main findings of the mission were that the newly constructed Maya Devi Temple has substantially affected the integrity and authenticity of the property, including by having a negative aesthetic impact on the archaeological remains that it aims to shelter. The mission, although recommending that the structure should ideally be removed, stressed at the same time the importance of respecting the religious sentiments of the Buddhist community associated with the temple, and proposed certain measures to at least minimize the negative impact of the new structure, categorized into short, mid and long term recommendations, the latter concerning the conservation of the property in general. The short time recommendations, which directly concerned the structure of the Maya Devi Temple, were meant to guide the action of the responsible authorities until such time that all stakeholders could reach consensus on an appropriate alternative to the current structure. The mission, moreover, strongly emphasized the need for a site-Management Plan.

It should be recalled that the design of the current structure had been submitted by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre via the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu in March 2002, and further forwarded to the Advisory Bodies. However, before the Committee could consider the implications of the proposed development, at its 26th session in June 2002, the construction had already begun in Lumbini due to the significant pressure exerted by local religious groups.

On 13 January 2005, the World Heritage Centre received a report from the State Party. The State Party reiterated its view that the new Temple did not affect the authenticity and integrity of the property, considering that no foundations were dug to support the new building (existing trenches were used) and that the new

structure, similar in shape to a previous one located on the same spot, is allegedly entirely reversible. However, it also felt that improvements could be made and expressed its full readiness to take into account the advice of UNESCO, and requested that the latter dispatch a further mission to the property to that end.

In general, the response by the State Party addresses, to various degrees, the many specific recommendations made by the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission of 2004. It does not, however, reflect any progress towards a “revised comprehensive conservation and Management Plan”, as requested by the Committee in paragraph 2 of its decision of 2004. With respect to the short-term recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Mission of 2004, the State Party noted the following:

- a) The new Temple, in the form of a box, is similar to a previous structure that existed at the property before the excavations were carried out. The new building has few openings for security reasons and to better control access to the property, taking also into account the intention of the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT, i.e. the management authority) to charge visitors an entry fee;
- b) Concerning the need to improve the ventilation, new openings will be made below the gallery level so as to allow the generation of natural convective currents ;
- c) The false ceiling under the skylight has not yet been removed, but should be taken off. The remaining false ceiling should remain in place ;
- d) Staircases and ramps can be redesigned. Guidelines should be provided by UNESCO ;
- e) Whitewash applied to the building, brick piers and the design of the railings on the roof reflect features of the above-mentioned previous structure. Whitewash could nevertheless be removed ;
- f) Access of the public to the roof of the new Temple was allowed to charge entry fees and raise funds for the maintenance of the property. Free access to any area of the property for worshippers, including to the open garden surrounding the Temple, has traditionally been granted and has become customary ;

Concerning the mid-term recommendations, the State Party provided the following observations:

- a) LDT will hire a designer to review the current landscape with a view to enhance its capacity to reflect the spiritual values of the property. The State Party would appreciate it if the services of such an expert could be made available by UNESCO ;
- b) LDT acknowledges the need for a Management Plan for the property. A consultant will be hired

to elaborate such a Plan, which will be implemented on an annual basis through the regular budget of LDT ;

- c) Concerning the strengthening of the management mechanism at the property, LDT has long felt that this was important. LDT will commission a study to look into the problem and shall act upon the resulting recommendations ;
- d) LDT shall develop an awareness-raising programme and implement it ;
- e) Regulations to control developments and their potential impact on archaeological resources have existed for a long time, but they were not respected so far. LDT shall review the regulations and ensure their enforcement in the future.

On the long-term recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Mission of 2004, such as a review of the 1978 Kenzo Tange Master Plan and exploring the possibility for an extension to the World Heritage property, the State Party acknowledges their pertinence, and considers that further substantial action will be required towards their implementation. Finally, the State Party provided information on some improvement works which have been carried out since 2004 within the complex (but outside the World Heritage property).

With respect to the different points raised in the State Party’s report, ICOMOS noted that the previous structure existing at the property was just a platform, not a building or a room, and therefore it could not be compared with the new Temple. Security concerns, moreover, could be more appropriately addressed by strengthening control at the property. The false ceiling should be removed as it is “distractive and ... inappropriate for the structure, as it is made of plastic, which may also contribute towards the ventilation problems”. Concerning the redesign of the staircase, ramp, and railings on the roof, and the removal of the whitewash, ICOMOS reiterates that the implementation of these recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission of 2004 would mitigate the impact of the new building without compromising any of its functional capacities. ICOMOS further stressed the need for a comprehensive site Management Plan to integrate various aspects related to the conservation, development and presentation of the property.

The above issues were also discussed with representatives from the State Party and the management body during the joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission to the Kathmandu Valley in March 2005. On this occasion, the State Party recognized the challenges posed by the new structure of the Maya Devi Temple, and requested another mission to the property by UNESCO in order to agree on definite solutions. The possibility of organizing an

architectural competition for the design of a new building (following the removal of the present one), was also envisaged, if funding and expertise were made available to the State Party.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.55

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.66**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Reiterating its concern about the lack of significant progress in addressing the recommendations of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Mission of 2004 to reverse the negative impact of the new Maya Devi Temple on the integrity and authenticity of the property,
4. Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to carry out a new mission to the property to define, in close consultation with the responsible authorities, definite solutions and concrete actions to address the above concerns, including a clear timetable for implementation, and report to the Committee on the outcome of the mission at its 30th Session in 2006;
5. Also requests the State Party to take urgent action, possibly through assistance from the World Heritage Fund, towards the elaboration of a comprehensive Management Plan for the property, built around its Outstanding Universal Value and in line with the principles set out in the recently revised Operational Guidelines (paragraphs 96-119);
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the above recommendation and the follow up to the recommendations of the new joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission to the property on the issue of the Maya Devi Temple, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

56. Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka) (C 451)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1988

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

23rd session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (**IV. 80**)

25th session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee (**V. 241, 242, 243**)

International Assistance :

2002: US\$ 25,000, Netherlands Funds-in-Trust at UNESCO

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission in May 2002

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

Lack of maintenance of historic buildings; lack of control on building activities within the World Heritage historic centre.

Current conservation issues:

Immediately following the tragic Sumatra Earthquake and South Asia Tsunami, and based on the first reports of damage caused to the World Heritage property of the Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications, the World Heritage Centre contacted the authorities of Sri Lanka to offer assistance. A fact-finding and project-formulation Mission was organized from 2 to 10 March 2005, under the framework of an Agreement signed in October 2004 between Italy and UNESCO for the establishment of emergency response groups in case of disasters affecting World Heritage. The Mission was accompanied by an observer from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation.

The Mission visited the Old Town of Galle, as well as a number of other properties affected by the Tsunami, accompanied by the staff of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and National Heritage. In Galle, the Tsunami caused the demolition of the Archaeological Marine Unit, and the washing away of its collection and equipment. This Unit had been recently established on one of the old jetties just outside the northern gate of the Town by a joint Sri Lankan/Dutch Project. Three small sections of the ramparts, between the Sailors Bastions and the Aurora bastion on the eastern side of the Citadel, were also partially destroyed, and an annex to the Dutch Hospital, which stood just behind the walls, was torn down by the wave. The water entered also the Town from the northern gate and flooded the premises of the former Maritime Museum, within the so-called Dutch Warehouse (up to a height of 2,2 metres), which was closed for renovations at the time of the Tsunami. Other very minor deteriorations were observed along the ramparts as a result of the exceptional wave. These, however, should be seen as part of a long term process of erosion and deterioration of the walls from the combined effect of water and salts.

Thanks to the ramparts, however, the Old Town suffered only relatively minor damages from the Tsunami, especially compared to the mass extent of destruction caused by the disaster along the coast around the World Heritage property, where thousands

lost their lives. The staff of the Marine Archaeological Unit (MAU), with the help of Dutch specialists, was able to recover some of the items of the Museums' collection (approximately 30%) that had been dispersed by the Tsunami. They also conducted some emergency rehabilitation and conservation actions on some of the items retrieved and the infrastructure of the MAU, and monitored the state of conservation of some of the wrecks discovered over the last years in the ancient harbour of the Town, which seem apparently to have been preserved in a fairly good state. Over 25 wrecks, including from Omani ships dating from the 9th and 10th centuries, had in fact been located over an area east of the Citadel, justifying a proposal for the extension of the World Heritage property. The commitment shown by the staff of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and National Heritage has been outstanding, especially at a time when the entire country is facing a national crisis of unprecedented proportions, with almost all available resources directed to address other priorities. It is very important to assist the national authorities in protecting the heritage at this particular time, when a massive reconstruction effort (involving the establishment of buffer zones along the coast and new infrastructure) might engender the loss of non-listed but significant cultural and natural heritage places. In this respect, worthy of praise is the effort made by the Sri Lanka ICOMOS Committee to coordinate the preparation of a survey of the cultural heritage properties affected by the Tsunami, in collaboration with seven national Universities.

Following the Mission, the World Heritage Centre prepared some project proposals for the rehabilitation of the World Heritage property and other properties affected by the Tsunami along the coasts of the country. These projects, agreed upon with the national authorities, included the preparation of a Management Plan for the Old Town and its ancient harbour, the up-grading of infrastructure and facilities and the development of materials and interpretation signage for enhancing the presentation of the property. Concerning the re-establishment of the Archaeological Marine Unit and the rehabilitation of the Maritime Museum, negotiations were under way at the time of the mission between the authorities of Sri Lanka and the Dutch Government. The World Heritage Centre requested the national authorities to keep it informed of the outcome of these negotiations so as to avoid duplications and coordinate efforts. Other projects, elaborated during the Mission, concerned the establishment of a monitoring system for the conservation of the ancient ramparts at Galle, and the rehabilitation of several damaged religious shrines along the coast, through the direct involvement of the local communities. These projects were submitted to the Government of Norway for possible funding. At the time of writing the present report, the World Heritage Centre has not received a response from the donor.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.56

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Expressing its deepest sympathies to the authorities of Sri Lanka and the victims of the Tsunami of 26 December 2004,
3. Highly commends the State Party and the Sri Lanka ICOMOS Committee for the commitment shown towards the preservation of its cultural heritage at a time of national crisis;
4. Encourages the international community to contribute to the rehabilitation of the World Heritage property of the Old Town of Galle and its Fortifications and of the cultural heritage of the country in general;
5. Also encourages the State party to integrate, within its reconstruction strategy and operational mechanisms, a concern for cultural heritage, including for vernacular architecture and traditional cultural landscapes that may have not yet been listed under the current Antiquities Law;
6. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the outcome of the negotiations with the various donors interested in contributing to the safeguarding of the cultural heritage of the World Heritage property.

57. Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2001

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

None

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$30,000

Previous monitoring mission(s):

An assessment mission for by an international expert (April 2005)

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

None

Current conservation issues:

In March 2005, the World Heritage Centre received alarming information concerning a large restoration and urban landscaping programme at the Shakhi-Zinda ensemble, a Royal funerary complex part of the

World Heritage property of Samarkand, currently being undertaken by the Ministry of Culture and Sports. This programme, which started in October 2004, should be completed by December 2005 and cost a total amount of USD 1,800,000.

As suggested by the World Heritage Centre in its letter to the Ministry of Culture and Sports dated 4 April 2005, a short visit by an international expert from CRATerre-EAG (France) was arranged in the beginning of April 2005 to make a first evaluation of the on-going restoration works, taking advantage of his presence in Uzbekistan on other business. According to the report submitted by the international expert, supplemented by extensive photographic documentation, the interventions under way include:

- a) Large-scale urban landscaping of the area surrounding the Shakhi-Zindah complex, including the demolition of the bazaar and several buildings, a new road replacing the existing one which was considered too close to the property and the establishment of a new green area facing the entrance to the complex;
- b) Large-scale restoration and reconstruction of almost all the ancient mausolea within the Shakhi-Zindah complex, with extensive use of cement and reinforced concrete;
- c) Extensive archaeological excavations in the eastern part of the Complex;
- d) The execution of a reinforced concrete wall, three to four metres high and faced with modern bricks.

Deeply concerned by the serious potential impact of these works for the conservation of the World Heritage property, and in particular its authenticity and integrity, the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, wrote to the Minister of Culture and Sports of Uzbekistan, by letter dated 27 April 2005, suggesting that a more thorough assessment be carried out by ICOMOS as soon as possible by a reactive monitoring mission. In its letter, the World Heritage Centre also recommended that the works be temporarily suspended, pending the outcome of the above-mentioned mission.

At the time of the drafting of the present report, the World Heritage Centre had not yet received a formal response from the State Party on whether it would be possible to organize a reactive monitoring mission to the property before the 29th session of the Committee in July 2005. More up-dated information may be available to the Committee at the time of its 29th session if, through negotiations with the State Party, the above-mentioned reactive monitoring mission takes place in the meantime.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.57

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Expressing its deep concern about the on-going large-scale restoration and urban landscaping programme at the Shakhi-Zindah ensemble, which appear to be severely affecting the integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage property;
3. Requests the State Party to immediately stop the on-going works at Shaki-Zindah;
4. Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre a complete documentation on the works being planned, in accordance to the provisions of the Operational Guidelines (paragraph 172);
5. Further requests ICOMOS to carry out a reactive monitoring mission to the property as soon as possible in order to assess the actual impact of the works on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property and report to the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

58. Complex of Hué Monuments (Vietnam) (C 678)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1993

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.61

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$ 307,111

Previous monitoring mission(s):

A monitoring mission by an international expert (8-18 November 2003)

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

Development of road infrastructure in and around the World Heritage property; Urban development pressure.

Current conservation issues:

A fifteen-page report from the Director of the Hué Monuments Conservation Centre, with a number of annexes, maps, and photographs, was submitted to the World Heritage Centre by the State Party on 1 February 2005. In response to the concern expressed by the Committee regarding the development of a road infrastructure around the Citadel, the report stresses the positive socio-economic impacts of the roads projects

for the local communities. The south-west ring road was designed to mitigate traffic within the Citadel, while ensuring an essential line of communication between the south and the north of the City at the time of major floods. This will enable the rescuing of inhabitants as well as the provision of emergency assistance to protect the heritage properties during such natural disasters. As far as the Tuan Bridge is concerned, the State Party considered as many as twenty proposals before launching the construction, taking into account geological, functional and aesthetic criteria. It should be also recalled that no other bridge exists within a distance of twenty kilometres. Other minor road and infrastructure improvements did not affect the heritage significance of the property due to their distance from the monuments (e.g. a road 200 meters from the Minh Mang's Tomb), but were important to ensure the link between the City of Hue with certain districts, such as A Luoi, where some minorities resided.

The State Party, however, recognized the need to take measures to mitigate the possible negative impacts of new road constructions, and has agreed to implement immediately the following actions:

- a) Enforcement of the regulations prohibiting residential or industrial settlements within 200 meters from the National Highway, to avoid encroachment along the road;
- b) A detailed plan for the Tuan Bridge/Minh Mang area will be developed and implemented by the Provincial Department of Construction, taking into close consideration the recommendations of previous UNESCO missions;
- c) A proposal for extending the protected buffer zone of the Hue Citadel has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Culture and Information for approval. Subsequently, similar proposals will be prepared for extending the buffer zones of other listed monuments within the World Heritage property.

The report also addresses the problem of illegal constructions or renovations within the Citadel. Indeed, following the disastrous flood of 1999, some houses did not comply with the building regulations established by the authorities to control changes and ensure the conservation of the traditional character of the urban stock. The local authorities ordered to conduct an inventory of illegal constructions and to develop an enforcement plan to demolish or modify those illegal constructions in accordance with the regulated height and architectural style. Some 700 illegal buildings would need to be removed along the wall of the Citadel. In addition, advisory support will be provided in the future to owners willing to rehabilitate their house.

On the other hand, the Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO informed the World Heritage Centre, by letter dated 5 January 2005, of its intention to extend the World Heritage property by including three additional

monuments which are not included in the original nomination: An Dinh Residence (Last Queen Mother's residence), Memorial House of Queen Mother Tu Cung and Van Van Tomb (Last Great Queen Mother's tomb).

The State Party should be commended for the efforts made in reconciling legitimate development needs with the requirements of conservation within the World Heritage property, especially taking into account the great pressure exerted by the socio-economic development of the country and the recent natural disasters that have hit the region of Hué. However, two major issues raised by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), are not really addressed in the report. These are the creation of an inventory of traditional urban buildings to be conserved and the elaboration of an overall Management Plan for the property. These two issues, related to each other, should urgently be considered by the State Party with a view to ensuring the long-term protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The present piecemeal approach of dealing with single problems and areas, in fact, does not provide sufficient assurances for the conservation of the heritage significance of the property.

ICOMOS considers as well that the elaboration of a complete inventory of the cultural heritage and of a comprehensive Management Plan would be also essential preparatory steps for a possible re-nomination of the property, taking into account the unique landscape value of the environment of Hué.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.58

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling Decision 28 COM 15B.61 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Having taken note of the socio-economic reasons that justified the upgrading of the road infrastructure around the Citadel of Hué,
4. Congratulating the State Party for its efforts to mitigate the negative impact of these roads on the heritage values of the property and to deal with the serious issue of the illegal constructions encroaching upon the property,
5. Noting, on the other hand, the intention expressed by the Vietnamese authorities to extend the World Heritage property to include certain monuments such as the An Dinh Residence (Last Queen Mother's residence), Memorial House of Queen Mother Tu Cung and Van Van Tomb (Last Great Queen Mother's tomb),
6. Requests the State Party to:
 - a) follow-up and implement as soon as possible the actions envisaged for the demolition or modification of the illegal buildings

constructed within the World Heritage property;

- b) proceed to the compilation of a complete inventory of the traditional urban buildings of Hué;
 - c) elaborate, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre, a comprehensive Management Plan for the property, built upon its Outstanding Universal Value and in line with the principles set out in the Operational Guidelines (2005) (paragraphs 96-119). This Management Plan should concern all monuments and landscape areas considered as having a significant heritage value associated to Hué and which are currently not included in the property inscribed on the World Heritage List, in view of a possible re-nomination of the property;
7. *Further requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2006**, a progress report on the implementation of the above recommendations for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

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

59. Taj Mahal (C 252), Agra Fort (C 251) and Fatepur Sikri (C 255) (India)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:

Taj Mahal and Agra Fort: 1983;

Fatepur Sikri: 1986

Criteria:

Taj Mahal : C(i)

Agra Fort : C(iii)

Fatepur Sikri : C(ii)(iii)(iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.107

28 COM 15B.58

International Assistance:

US\$38,753 (up to 1995) including Emergency Assistance of US\$17,965 in 1995

Previous monitoring mission(s):

World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission (11-16 January 2004)

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

Development projects, threats to monuments' foundations due to geological instability of riverbank

Current Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a progress report from the State Party on 29 January 2005.

The State Party proposes to reconstitute a coordination committee which had previously existed for monitoring development activities and management of the three World Heritage properties in the Agra District, and to include other stakeholders in order to discuss the modalities of an integrated Management Plan taking into account the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee. Such a Management Plan, integrated into the regional planning framework, would include a common visitor Management Plan, the upgrading of the protective boundary and buffer zone as well as the setting up of a monitoring system for the properties. The State Party intends to avail itself of the services of a multidisciplinary team from the New Delhi University School of Planning and Architecture to develop the Management Plan.

Following the recommendations of the 2004 World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) further notes its intention to carry out a study to identify and integrate "pockets which have historical relevance"; to develop a proposal to integrate the Taj Mahal and Agra World Heritage monuments including the Mehtab Bagh, the green belt between the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort and a section of the Yamuna River. The State Party also plans to develop a comprehensive site Management Plan for the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri using an integrated approach and methodology.

Efforts have been also made to place on-site interpretation centres and visitor facilities in the two courtyards adjoining the main gate of the Taj Mahal, for which works are in progress. Plans are also under way to develop a similar facility near the Agra Gate in Fatehpur Sikri.

The State Party should be commended for the significant efforts made to address the concerns of the Committee. If the intention of the State Party is ultimately to re-nominate the property as a single World Heritage property, careful attention should be given to study the form and extent of the nomination and its boundaries, which may include the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, their related monuments and gardens and possibly Fatehpur Sikri. Concerning the suggestion made by the State Party to include a "stretch of the Yamuna River" in a future integrated World Heritage area, it would be important to study carefully this extension keeping in mind the previous mission recommendations.

ICOMOS also stresses that any site Management Plans should ensure a protective response to the World Heritage values recognized at the time of inscription of the properties. In order to ensure that the proposed integrated Management Plan takes due

consideration of those values identified and recognized as a result of a possible consolidated nomination, it is important to build consensus around the nature of this possible nomination and its associated values as quickly as possible.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.59

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.58** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Commends the State Party for the steps it has taken in response to the Committee's requests;
4. Encourages the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to continue its efforts towards the establishment of an integrated Management Plan for World Heritage properties of the Agra district, with the full and direct involvement of all stakeholders, in view of a possible future re-nomination as a single World Heritage property;
5. Recommends to the State party, in developing such an integrated Management Plan, to define the ultimate form and extent of the possible re-nomination based on careful studies and considerations, taking into account the World Heritage values recognized at the time of the inscription of the properties and in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies ;
6. Requests the State Party to submit a report on the progress made on the development of the integrated management mechanism of the three properties, by **1 February 2007**, for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

60. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 479 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1995

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (v)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.50

28 COM 15B.60

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$117,242

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO mission (15-22 February 2005)

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

Lack of enforcement of the Luang Prabang Conservation Plan (PSMV) and illegal constructions; Public works (road upgrading and drainage) which may affect the World Heritage values.

Current conservation issues:

No new information has been received from the State Party.

Upon receipt of information at the end of 2004 concerning the unauthorized demolition of Talat Dara market, the main covered market located in a strategic area of the historic core of the conservation area, UNESCO wrote to the State Party requesting that administrative procedures as laid out in the Luang Prabang Conservation Plan (PSMV) be respected, notably the demolition and building permits for non-objection by the Heritage House (Maison du Patrimoine) and approval by the Urban Development Authority (UDA). While a third of the market buildings of 1950's architecture had already been demolished, intervention by the Minister for Culture saved the remaining structures. UNESCO was assured, during its February 2005 mission, by the Minister of Culture and the Vice-Governor of Luang Prabang that the renovation of the market would be carried out in conformity with the PSMV.

The long awaited execution of the court decision for the demolition of a house built in flagrant violation of the PSMV, which involved falsification of the permit document and destruction of a listed building was finally carried out in February 2005 during the joint UNESCO-Chinon-Agence Française de Développement (AFD) mission.

The town extension plan and the Scheme for Coherent Territorial Development (SCOT) to mitigate the development pressure on the core historical zone of the property was approved by the inter-departmental Local Heritage Committee and the Minister of Culture, as President of the National Inter-ministerial Heritage Committee. SCOT, developed with funding support from the AFD, has identified the general needs for new infrastructure, housing and nature protection areas and urban agricultural land. The Government, with UNESCO's support, has requested the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for a grant to finance a feasibility study on the road improvement and deviation around Luang Prabang to structure the coherent territorial development. With support from UNESCO, the City of Chinon and the Region Centre of France, partners of Luang Prabang for the past ten years, the State Party initiated a new EU-financed project (750,000 Euros) on the protection and development of urban and peri-urban agriculture, and another on the protection of the hydro system/wetlands approved for funding by the French Fund for the World Environment (FFEM), both of

which will support conservation and local development.

Preparation for the creation of a Natural Regional Park of the Nam Khan River Basin which will include the World Heritage area of Luang Prabang, and part of a National Biodiversity Conservation Area (NBCA) is also underway with the support of Region Centre and UNESCO. A joint UNESCO/WWF rapid assessment survey of the property for potential consideration as a Biosphere Reserve under Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) is scheduled for the last quarter of 2005. UNESCO and the Tokyo Institute of Technology are supporting the “Heritage Knowledge Kiosk” project entailing the development of database/website and installation of internet centres for tourists and the local communities in the World Heritage protected area and future biosphere reserve under MAB. The State Party approved a revision of the national heritage law to enable the levying of heritage taxes from tourists to finance conservation through the “heritage pass” system.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.60** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Recognizing the importance of the territorial dimension of heritage conservation and heritage-based development, as developed in the Scheme for Coherent Territorial Development (SCOT), notably to mitigate the development pressure on the World Heritage property,
4. Reiterating, however, its concern over the capacity of the national and local authorities to continue enforcement measures for heritage protection in a sustainable manner, particularly to maintain the vital function of the Maison du Patrimoine without dependence on external aid,
5. Encourages the State Party to seek national measures to raise funds for conservation;
6. Requests the State Party to regularly report to the World Heritage Centre on the progress achieved in the implementation of the PSMV and the SCOT, as well as on other conservation issues in the core protected area.

61. State Historical and Cultural Park “Ancient Merv” (Turkmenistan) (C 886)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1999

Criteria: C (ii) (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.55

28 COM 15B.67

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$98,814

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Necessity to strengthen legal protection and management mechanism to safeguard the property.

Current conservation issues:

A report addressing the points raised by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) was submitted by the State Party on 10 March 2005.

The official documents relating to the protection, entitled *Commitments for Protection of Monuments*, have been revised and strengthened so as to conform better to the obligations resulting from World Heritage designation. The responsibilities of national and regional administrations have been redefined to ensure the strict application of the Law ‘On the protection of historical and cultural monuments’. The Department for the Protection, Study and Restoration of the Historic and Cultural Monuments of Turkmenistan is now responsible for coordination of activities undertaken by different international teams on property. Regular meetings involving the stakeholders are held to share necessary information.

The State Party and its associated institutions have achieved a significant progress in the protection of the property. A number of problems still persist, but the indications given in the cautious reports from the State Party suggest that resolute steps are being taken to solve them. The State Party should be requested to provide the Committee with regular information on the progress made, and to consider further applications for funding from the World Heritage Fund, notably for training projects. A training activity, funded through the World Heritage Fund, for capacity building on the elaboration of Management Plans, is indeed on-going and will continue until September 2005. It is expected that the institutional framework for the site management will be further strengthened as a result of this training activity.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.61

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.67** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party on the efforts made in terms of reinforcement of the legal protection, elaboration of a Management Plan and coordination of activities undertaken by different international teams;
4. Encourages the State Party to consider applying for International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund for the organization of training activities;
5. Requests the State Party to regularly report to the World Heritage Centre on the progress achieved on the protection of the property, especially as regards the Management Plan, which is currently being elaborated.

62. Historic Centre of Shakhrisabz (Uzbekistan) (C 885)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2000

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.56
28 COM 15B.68

International Assistance:

Total amount (up to 2004): US\$30,000

Previous monitoring mission(s):

A monitoring mission by an international expert (23-29 October 2002)

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

Lack of comprehensive conservation and Management Plan.

Current conservation issues:

In replying to the request of the Committee at the time of its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO submitted a summary of the provisions of the Management Plan for Shakhrisabz. This document covers a wide range of institutional aspects of conservation, such as the legal status, relevant organizations, financial resources, etc. The information provided is detailed and shows a considerable advance since the property was listed in 2000.

ICOMOS notes, however, that it is arguable whether this document (three pages, plus a two-page table) constitutes a Management Plan in a strict sense because there is no clear indication, beyond the identification of regional and municipal administrations involved, of how the management system operates at the property level. Further information should be provided on how the national policy framework for heritage conservation (i.e. the so-called “Meros (Heritage) National Program”), is actually applied on the World Heritage property through the Management Plan for Shakhrisabz. Specific information on decision-making structure, budgeting, monitoring, conservation/restoration activities, etc. should be provided in the actual Management Plan.

Furthermore, the provisional Management Planning document submitted by the State Party does not refer to any statement of significance, does not contain a description of the physical attributes that embody the Outstanding Universal Value and would need to be conserved, nor of the specific activities to be carried out to preserve the property and monitor its state of conservation.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.62

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.68** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party for the advances made in the management and protection of the property;
4. Notes, however, that a real Management Plan for the property would still need to be prepared, based on the principles set out in the recently adopted Operational Guidelines (2005) ;
5. Requests the State Party, with assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a comprehensive Management Plan specifically targeted at the situation in Shakhrisabz, clearly based on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property as recognized by the Committee and in accordance with the principles set out in the revised Operational Guidelines (paragraphs 96-119). This should include a description of the physical attributes that it aims to conserve, specific activities to protect these attributes and provisions for a monitoring their state of conservation, as well as details on how the management system operates in aspects such as decision-making structure, budgeting, monitoring, specific conservation/restoration projects, etc.;

6. *Further Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a report on the progress achieved on the implementation of the above recommendation by 1 February 2006, for the consideration of the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.*

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

63. City of Graz - Historic Centre (Austria) (C 931)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1999

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.82

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission from 25 to 27 February 2005.

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

Urban development pressure

Current conservation issues:

As requested by the Committee, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to the property took place from 25 to 27 February 2005. The mission concluded with the following observations:

From recently reported changes to the property, at least three separate cases have to be considered as serious signs of a possible trend to replace historic buildings with new architectural creations, to respond to the challenges of economically supported development needs or expectations. The mission stated that the current legal and management framework for heritage conservation, and more particularly those for historic cities as World Heritage properties, does not have the capacity to cover all issues raised by the new challenges. Although alterations have not greatly damaged the outstanding universal value of this property, the situation in the City of Graz requires serious consideration because of the current dangerous and damaging trend.

While the loss of the “Kommod-Haus” can be taken as a warning for the future, the “Kunsthau”, despite its architectural quality, indicates a trend in local urban planning towards projects which do not necessarily

need to harmonize with the existing historic urban fabric. According to the mission’s findings, the Thalia-Center, situated in the buffer zone of the property, constitutes the most problematic conjunction of an over-dimensional project and lacks quality. Although agreed to by the national conservation authority, this high-rise extension of the Thalia Theatre is considered to impact negatively on the historic fabric of the property.

The mission recommended reviewing the national legislative framework so as to extend the conservation of World Heritage values as a priority to urban entities. This would require the creation of specific legal instruments at the national level for the protection of larger ensembles (e.g. historic settlements, heritage landscapes).

The mission further noted that the local authorities are working on a comprehensive Urban Master Plan for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone. Such a plan should define the development principles of the city as well as identify those areas where changes are expected. A revision of the management structure is recommended in connection with a revised Management Plan that defines the modes of implementation of the Urban Master Plan. In this context, the appointment of a person responsible for World Heritage has been welcomed and should be reaffirmed by the city’s authorities. More specifically, a monitoring system to avoid in the future cases like the destruction of the Kommod-Haus should be established. The problematic areas of the city centre require additional attention and support by the local authorities. Finally, it should be ensured that the *Operational Guidelines* are respected, especially paragraph 172 stating the State Party’s responsibility to inform UNESCO before any major changes are made to the property.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.63

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.82 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Noting with concern the results of the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission and the trend towards ongoing alterations to historic buildings and new constructions,*
4. *Requests the State Party to reconsider a number of building projects in the core and the buffer-zone of the property as indicated by the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission;*
5. *Urges the State Party and the concerned authorities to implement the mission’s recommendations in due course;*

6. *Also requests the State Party to submit a progress report on the implementation of the mission's recommendations and on progress made towards a comprehensive Urban Master Plan for the World Heritage property and its buffer-zone to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2007 for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.*

64. City-Museum Reserve of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1994

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.62

28 COM 15B.69

International Assistance :

1999:US\$ 19, 000 (technical cooperation) for the preparation of the heritage and tourism master plan for Mtskheta.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission from 8 to 16 November 2003.

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

Lack of a management mechanism; insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities; need to re-define core and buffer zones.

Current conservation issues:

Following the decision by the Committee, the State Party requested on 17 March 2005 to change the name of the property to the "Historical Monuments of Mtskheta".

The State Party submitted a detailed state of conservation report on 13 February 2005. Following the elaboration in 2003 of the "Mtskheta Heritage and Tourism Master Plan" with the assistance of UNESCO/UNDP, the State Party recognised the urgent need to prepare a Management Plan for the property. According to the State Party, factors affecting the property include (1) lack of funding, (2) climatic conditions, (3) inappropriate interventions by the Church authorities and (4) absence of an effective management system.

ICOMOS' detailed comments and recommendations on the preparation of the well-structured and detailed report were transmitted to the State Party on 25 April 2005.

Concerning the Javari Monastery, ICOMOS fully shared the concerns expressed in the State Party report on the state of conservation of both the interior and exterior of the main Church. There are serious problems of stonework maintenance and bas-relief protection. In addition, scaffolding from the earlier restoration work should be removed and a buffer zone must be defined. Therefore, ICOMOS recommended that (1) conservation and partial restoration is needed for the seriously damaged limestone blocks of the external facades. Soot, mildew, and parasites must be removed from certain building stones and capitals; (2) the carved building stones must be carefully removed without delay and taken to a special centre for stone conservation so that the crumbling parts can be strengthened. Thereafter, they should be on display in the Regional Museum. They should be replaced by replicas in accordance with Article 8 of the 1964 Venice Charter. The replicas should be distinguishable from the authentic building stones.

The attempts, now halted, to restore the Northern Church and Parekklesion also pose a significant problem. ICOMOS recommends that (1) specialised cleaning and treatment using herbicide, of the surrounding wall to remove plant growth, (2) repair work to the walling, including careful repair of the construction joints and restoration work in some sections. A protective layer should be put on the upper level, as protection against inclement weather conditions, (3) removal of later, minor constructions or their replacement where necessary (e.g. small wooden gates).

Concerning Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, the State Party reported on the continued and alarming state of the roofing, the bas-reliefs and ornaments of the cupola, and the facades of the monument. Unfortunately, no conservation work has been carried out on the wall paintings inside the Church, which are of exceptional historical and artistic value. They are at grave risk of further damage and eventual disappearance. ICOMOS considered that it is of paramount importance for the future of the monument that stratigraphical investigations, systematic archaeological excavations and conservation should be initiated throughout the entire churchyard in advance of 'Territory Maintenance'. Illicit underground construction inside and outside the Monastery grounds and unsupervised excavations carried out by local Church authorities should be prohibited. It is regrettable that the State Party provided no information on new building activities in the buffer zone of the monument, including the surrounding urban architectural ensemble. According to ICOMOS, the illegal and inappropriate additions to the old Catholicos Palace continue to constitute one of the most difficult problems in preserving Mtskheta's outstanding universal value, since this building continues to be the residence of the Catholicos-Patriarch of Georgia.

ICOMOS regretted that the State Party report made no comment on the condition of the wall paintings inside the *Samtavro Nunnery Church*, which had been seriously damaged by plastering during the Soviet period (see *A Heritage & Tourism Master Plan for Mtskheta, Georgia* (UNESCO & UNDP-SPPD Pilot Project, March 2003, p.51). The State Party report made no comment on the present condition of the Samtavro burial ground, the largest and one of the most important cemeteries in the Caucasus region. Short- medium- and long-term recommendations were made in *A Heritage & Tourism Master Plan for Mtskheta, Georgia* (UNESCO & UNDP-SPPD Pilot Project, March 2003, p.37–40).

ICOMOS shared the views on the existing condition and work carried out at the important Armaztsikhe-Bagineti archaeological property. The proposals in *A Heritage & Tourism Master Plan for Mtskheta, Georgia* (UNESCO & UNDP-SPPD Pilot Project, March 2003) have not been acted upon in the face of the very serious problems of excavation, conservation, protection and adaptation of this property in the city of Mtskheta. Some ‘conservation’ methods on the unfired brick walls are open to serious challenge as regards the protection and the underlying layout of the buildings.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.64

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,**
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.69,** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Urges the State Party to define core and buffer zones of the property;
4. Expresses its serious concern over the state of conservation of this property and urges the State Party to take urgent and appropriate measures;
5. Encourages the State Party to implement the Maser Plan developed by UNESCO and UNDP in 2003;
6. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** in order for the World Heritage Committee to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 31th session in 2007.

65. Rock Drawings in Valcamonica (Italy) (C 94)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979

Criteria: C (iii) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.73

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission from 9 to 13 September 2004;

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

Construction of roads and high voltage power line in the immediate vicinity of the property; Absence of boundaries for the property; Lack of Management Plan that addresses conservation issues, development control, tourism management and future rock art research; Construction of metal walkway.

Current conservation issues:

Following the decision of the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was fielded to the World Heritage property from 9 to 13 September 2004. The main objectives of the mission were to assess the general state of conservation with particular reference to management, infrastructure development in the immediate vicinity and presentation of the property. The principal rock art properties are located in seven separate parks managed by different bodies. The State Party submitted supplementary information with relevant maps on 1 February 2005 which responded to each of the recommendations of the mission.

The main conservation issues for the property include:

Boundaries: At the time of the mission there were no clearly defined boundaries for the World Heritage property. The State Party has provided preliminary maps to the World Heritage Centre indicating the location of seven parks in the valley that could form the basis for the defined core zones of the property. In addition, buffer zones have been established for four of the parks. The World Heritage Centre will contact the State Party in the framework of the Retrospective Inventory project to further clarify the definition of the core and buffer zones in relation to the original nomination.

Management plan: According to the State Party, the regional Superintendency in its coordinating role, has set up a technical advisory body for the preparation of a Site Management Plan. The overall structure of this plan has been developed with the involvement of the local stakeholders concerned with the administration, management, research and teaching. The completion of the Site Management Plan is foreseen for April 2005.

Infrastructures in the vicinity of the property: The mission observed that numerous power lines criss-cross the entire landscape and significantly compromise the vistas of the World Heritage property. According to the

State Party, these power lines already existed in the Valley at the time of its inscription. While no new lines have since been built, routes for several power lines have been modified respecting the location of the parks with rock art. The State Party further indicated in its report that it was not viable to bury power lines underground. The mission also considered that road networks in the Valley are negatively affecting the visual integrity of the property as well as the landscape context in which the rock art has been continuously created over the past 8000 years, and encouraged the regional authorities to establish a development plan for the area. According to the local researchers, the protection zone of the area is not always respected. The State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that the regional Superintendency had halted the construction of a stretch of road which would have passed through the property in order to guarantee the integrity of the property. The new route went through a tunnel at a depth that posed no threat to the rock art localities.

Metal walkway: The mission established that a wooden walkway at Rock No 27 (and not No 57 as previously reported) in the National Park was removed in 2003 to be replaced by a galvanized steel walkway drilled directly into the rock using at least 11 metal struts. The mission recommended that the relevant Municipality replace the current metal walkway by a wooden structure which is fully reversible, avoids direct contact with the rock surface, and is in harmony with the surrounding landscape. The State Party fully agreed with the recommendation of the mission and used the suggested method of wooden walkways for another rock in the same Park.

Conservation technique: Some rocks, such as Rock No 57 in the national park, have been affected by exfoliation and in such cases consolidation is necessary. Moreover, in order to remove deposits from rock surfaces, the regional authorities are apparently using a chemical called "Preventol" and occasionally, metal brushes. The mission strongly recommended the authorities to avoid the use of chemicals and metal brushes, and to explore alternative conservation methods. In addition, geo-chemical analyses to examine the effect of air and water quality on the rock surfaces should be conducted, as well as the monitoring of the red algae and exfoliation problems in the future. The State Party subsequently explained that a scientific commission established in 1992 had carried out a research programme which included geochemical analyses to verify the types and sources of pollution and the causes of deterioration.

Research programme: The mission met with representatives of a number of research institutions. While they independently conducted a range of research works resulting in numerous publications, it appeared that a coordinated research programme does not exist for the World Heritage property and the results of their work are not necessarily shared in an effective manner. The mission, therefore, recommended that a

medium/long term research plan be established for the World Heritage property in coordination with all researchers involved in the property.

The State Party provided the additional information requested in the mission report thereby clarifying many of the issues raised. ICOMOS noted however, regardless of all the positive efforts and achievements, it would appear that some of the basic issues remain unsolved and/or require further attention. This especially concerns the need for considering alternative conservation methods to the use of chemicals and metal brushes, the further defining of the boundaries, the coordination of research programmes and sharing of the results with other institutions and researchers present in Valcamonica.

The report of the joint mission was well received and dealt with the utmost seriousness by the State Party. This demonstrates an acceptance of the actions taken and full intention to follow the advice and recommendations proposed by ICOMOS and UNESCO.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.65

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined the Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.73, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Takes note of the results of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission in September 2004;*
4. *Requests the State Party to further clarify and define the core and buffer zones of the property;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to complete the Management Plan to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;*
6. *Further encourages the State Party to follow up on the recommendations of the mission, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, particularly concerning the development of a coordinated research programme and the use of alternative conservation methods;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a progress report taking into account the recommendations of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission by 1 February 2007 for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.*

66. City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (Italy) (C 712 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1994, extension 1996.

Criteria: C (i) (ii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.91

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint ICOMOS/World Heritage Centre mission 23 to 25 March 2005

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

Construction project of a Highway extension in the vicinity of Villa Saraceno; uncontrolled construction development in the Veneto region

Current conservation issues:

On 1 February 2005 the State Party transmitted a first Technical Report to the World Heritage Centre. In this report, the Italian Ministry of Culture, made the following observations, with respect to the Committee's decision.

Although the construction of the stretch of Highway (Autostrada) running near Villa Saraceno-Lombardi was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2004, construction had not yet begun. A variant of the project has been approved, providing for significant changes to the original project, in order to mitigate the impact of the Highway on the historic landscape and the Palladian Villa.

The variant of the project relocates the infrastructure about 800 metres away from the Villa, and foresees a trench-based layout for a length of 3.6 km. Trees will be planted alongside the trench, thus making the Highway not visible from the Saraceno-Lombardi Villa, and also from other nearby monuments. Furthermore, the revised project reduces the size and height of the Agugliaro junction, to be located 3000 metres from the boundary of Villa Saraceno.

It should be pointed out that the conditions issued by the Regional Authorities approving the project foresee the establishment of a Park stretching from the foot of the Colli Berici to the Euganean Hills. The boundaries of this Park would be very extensive, and would include the Saraceno-Lombardi Villa; this therefore represents a useful instrument for the protection of the property and controlling any adverse impacts caused by development.

In addition, the Land Use Plan of the Municipality of Agugliaro establishes that industrial districts – mainly comprising small enterprises – shall be located in an

area at a distance of no less than 3.2 km from the Villa Saraceno, beyond built-up areas.

The joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission took place from 23 to 25 March 2005. The mission visited the site to assess and evaluate the potential impact of the new infrastructure on the outstanding universal value of the property, and to examine its adverse direct and indirect impacts on the authenticity of the property. The mission had meetings with regional and local authorities and the Verona-Vicenza-Padova Highway Corporation. All necessary assistance and information requested were provided by the authorities.

The Mayor of Agugliaro informed the mission that the overall Highway project concerned 23 local communities and in 2001 a local referendum had been held in which 73% of the citizens of Agugliaro voted in favour of the proposed new road. The proposed Highway project dates back to the 1970s. Part of the Highway, A31, had already been built but this section (Vicenza-Rovigo, known as Valdastico Sud) had been postponed. This Highway is expected to reduce the pressure on the local road SS247. The mission noted that this road was narrow and very heavily used. The existing road is visible from the Villa, at about 220 metres distance, producing constant noise and dirt pollution.

The proposed new Highway is in the form of an arch close to other historical buildings protected by Italian law with two different levels of protection. Originally the proposed Highway was much closer to Villa Saraceno, passing at 330 metres distance. The new proposal sets the Highway at 790 metres in a direct line from the Villa. The Highway then passes in the vicinity of other listed buildings, at 490 metres from the Palazzo delle Trombe, and only 100 metres from Villa Saraceno-Dolfin.

The design of the Highway, foresees that 2.5 km of the section close to the Villa passes through a 'trench' below street level, at considerable extra cost. On the side of the trench there would be artificial mounts and a line of trees. This would greatly reduce the visual impact of the road. The proposed trench design also includes a noise barrier and a new line of trees on both sides.

In the proximity of the Villa Saraceno a Highway over-pass is foreseen, (*Cavalcavia* No 18) and at the other end of the trench, close to Villa Saraceno-Dolfin, a second one is located (*Cavalcavia* No 19). Both over-passes, necessary to connect local roads to the Highway, are very close to the Villa in question. No 18 will be in direct visual contact with the Villa. The '*Casello di Agugliaro*', though close, is not visible from the Villa. The toll booths and junction of this part of the Highway will be modified and simplified. The design of these three elements is considered as crucial, and must be as simple and as low a level as possible. The mission was informed

that new simplified designs would be developed and will substantially lower over-passes.

The representative of the Ministry informed the mission that a Management and Conservation Plan for the World Heritage property was being prepared.

In conclusion, the mission noted that:

- There was no doubt that the State Party was committed to mitigate the impact of the Highway;

- The Corporation responsible for the construction of the Highway has taken into consideration the importance of the Villa and has proposed solutions that would reduce the impact of the road. New detailed information has been submitted;

The State Party is asked to confirm the information provided verbally to the mission, and mainly:

- The plan of the section of the Highway that will be placed in a trench;

- The design of over-passes Nos18 and 19, which need to be lowered.

- The design of the *Casello di Agugliaro*.

Furthermore, the State Party needs to confirm that the Management and Conservation Plan will be completed by end January 2006; The State Party should also control that no illegal development within the property has taken or takes place.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.66

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.91, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for the submission of a detailed technical report,
4. Acknowledges the efforts by the State Party to amend the initial Highway construction project;
5. Takes note of the results of the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to the property;
6. Requests the State Party to ensure that the management and conservation plan of the area is being finalised by early 2006;
7. Further requests the State Party to take measures to prevent any illegal or inappropriate construction within the property;
8. Urges the State Party to ensure that a strict control is exerted on land uses in the area surrounding the Villa, in order to avoid urban sprawls or development of industrial constructions that may affect the landscape;

9. Further urges the State Party to send to the World Heritage Centre a complete dossier on the project including the design of each component of the infrastructure in the area concerned;

10. Requests the State Party to prepare for each of the components of the World Heritage property of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto a management and conservation plan including buffer zones and specific measures to protect the historic landscape;

11. Further requests the State Party to submit a progress report on the implementation of the mission's recommendations and the management and conservation plan for the World Heritage property and its buffer zone to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2007 for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

67. Curonian Spit (Lithuania and Russian Federation) (C 994)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2000

Criteria: C (v)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.70
28 COM 15B.75

International Assistance :

US\$ 20,000 (technical cooperation) for the establishment of an on site information centre for the Curonian Spit in 2002; Emergency Assistance (US\$ 30,000) in 2000 for the protection of this transboundary property (an additional US\$ 10,000 was also provided to the Russian Federation for this purpose)

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO mission 2-6 November 2003;

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

Potential pollution from the oil exploitation of D-6 oil field by the Russian Federation in the Baltic Sea; Lack of bilateral cooperation between Lithuania and the Russian Federation; The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project was carried out by the Russian Federation but it does not cover the Lithuanian part of the property

Current conservation issues:

Since the last session of the Committee, a number of bilateral initiatives by the joint Lithuanian-Russian Commission on Environmental Protection have taken

place. These initiatives included an agreement on the establishment of working groups on emergency plans and pollution risk assessment (24-25 August 2004, Moscow, Russian Federation) and the creation of a monitoring programme of the Baltic Sea and the Curonian Lagoon (Vilnius, Lithuania, 21-22 September 2004). The site visit by experts of both countries (30 September-1 October 2004) also took place during a meeting of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission). These initiatives culminated in the signing of the monitoring programme of the Baltic Sea and Curonian Lagoon (30 November - 1 December 2004, Moscow, Russian Federation) and the development of a draft joint action plan (20-21 December 2004, Kaliningrad, Russian Federation).

Following the decision of the Committee, the World Heritage Centre received a joint letter on 28 January 2005 from Lithuania and the Russian Federation stating that both States Parties had agreed to (a) perform a joint post-project environmental impact assessment for the D-6 oil platform and pipeline by 15 June 2005; (b) start bilateral environmental monitoring of the Curonian Lagoon and the Baltic Sea by 1 July 2005; (c) sign a bilateral agreement concerning cooperation in case of pollution accidents, pollution prevention/mitigation and compensation measures; (d) sign a cooperation plan in the event of pollution accidents in the Baltic Sea. This joint letter is accompanied by an action plan with a timetable. With reference to Decision **28 COM 15B.75**, the timely submission of this joint letter means that the property was not automatically inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger on 1 February 2005.

In a report submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 8 February 2005, the Russian Federation outlined the detailed protection measures that are in place for the Curonian Spit, including monitoring, fire management, tourist management, restoration plans and area zoning. These measures fall within the framework of the Federal Law on Protected Natural Areas and the National Park management arrangements. The Russian Federation expressed its concern that the level of oil prospecting activity had increased in the port of Klaipeda and in the oil terminal in Buntinga and this may have a negative impact on the Curonian Spit.

The World Heritage Centre had a meeting on 17 February 2005 to exchange information with the designated Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the Curonian Spit to discuss the Council of Europe mission to the property in May 2004 and their motion of 9 July 2004 regarding the protection of the Curonian Spit in the context of the Baltic Sea. He welcomed the joint letter by both States Parties.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS and IUCN welcomed the progress made and

collaboration in joint activities. What seems to have been agreed upon between the States Parties, as indicated by the joint letter of 28 January 2005, is specific cooperation on monitoring and post-project analysis of ecological impacts on the Curonian Spit and to consider the possible impact of the oil drilling programme by the Russian Federation that has already commenced. What is not yet in place is a general agreement between the two governments on cooperation for the wider protection of the Baltic Sea, and in particular the Curonian Spit. At the time of inscription, the ICOMOS evaluation report stressed the need to address the management of cultural qualities and recommended that the two Management Plans should be harmonised. It also suggested that a tourism development plan be created and that the management of the property should be guided by a joint commission. As the joint Russian-Lithuanian Commission has now been set up, the issues of the cultural landscape management, and a coordinated Management Plan for the whole property, and the development of an overall tourism strategy has now to be addressed. The report provided by the States Parties forms a sound basis for bilateral agreement for the conservation of the Curonian Spit.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.67

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined the Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,*
2. *Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.75**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Warmly commends both States Parties for establishing an agreement by the deadline of 1 February 2005 to perform a joint post-project Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the D-6 oil platform and pipeline, together with other activities related to bilateral cooperation for safeguarding the property, and therefore avoiding the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
4. *Strongly requests both States Parties to implement the joint post-project EIA process and other activities outlined in the action plan according to the time table;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a state of conservation report of the property, including information on progress of cooperation between the States Parties regarding the joint post-project EIA process and other activities specified in the action plan by **1 February 2006** for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.*

**68. Auschwitz Concentration Camp (Poland)
(C 31)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979

Criteria: C (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B. 71

28 COM 15B.93

International Assistance :

1998: US\$ 20,000 (preparatory assistance) for an international expert meeting on the planning and protection of the surroundings of the property; The State Party of Israel has provided US\$ 20,000 to the Fund for an expert workshop (13-15 May 2004) on the preparation of a Management Plan for the property.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/ICOMOS mission from 1 to 2 July 2001 led by the Chairperson of the Committee

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

Lack of a Management Plan

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted the state of conservation report to the World Heritage Centre on 4 February 2005, in which the implementation of the second stage of the Governmental Strategic Programme for the Oświęcim Area for the years 2002-2006 was outlined. Within the framework of this Strategic Programme, a number of roads and routes of historical significance have been upgraded, improving access to the properties and objects of historical significance, and traffic flow in and around the World Heritage property. These infrastructural works have been visually beneficial to the town of Oświęcim.

Following the expert meeting (12-16 May 2004, Krakow, Poland), organised in response to the decisions of the Committee at its 25th and 26th sessions, a Polish expert visited the Documentation Centre at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel from 8 to 13 January 2005. This visit was hosted by the National Commission of Israel for UNESCO and resulted in a set of recommendations concerning a conservation strategy for the property.

The State Party also informed the World Heritage Centre by letter of 7 April 2005 of progress made in the preparation of a Management Plan for the property. In conformity with the recommendation of the afore-mentioned expert meeting in May 2004, this task is assumed by a combination of the Steering Committee that oversees the overall operation of the preparation of the Management Plan in Poland, the Planning Team who ensure the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the process and help prepare and implement the plan, and the International

Auschwitz Committee, that provide expertise from outside the country. Representatives of local governments are members of both the Steering Committee and the Planning Team and represent the interests of the local community who will also have to agree to the Management Plan through local government councils.

The draft Management Plan is expected to be completed by January 2006. A document detailing the scope of this exercise was submitted to the World Heritage Centre as an attachment to the letter of 31 January 2005, and includes the evaluation of the present state of conservation within and outside the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the existing property planning documentation and its current legal status, conservation priorities for all related components of the property, and the evaluation of tourism management and educational activities.

The International Centre for Education on Auschwitz and the Holocaust, which was initiated in 2003, was formally inaugurated on 27 January 2005. The aim of this Centre is to transform the former extermination camps into places of historical reflection and education in the spirit of democracy and tolerance. Despite the lack of financial and logistical means, a number of educational programmes have been initiated by the Centre in 2004 and 2005 targeting teachers, vocational groups, foreign visitors and secondary school students.

In highlighting the ceremony which took place on 27 January 2005 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of KL Auschwitz-Birkenau, the National Commission of Poland for UNESCO, in their letter to the World Heritage Centre of 31 January 2004, emphasised that the Management Plan for this World Heritage property must be prepared with the utmost caution given its special characteristics.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.68

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined the Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,*
2. *Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.93**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Notes with solemnity that the year 2005 is the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau;*
4. *Welcomes the establishment of the Steering Committee and the Planning Team for the preparation of the Management Plan; but nevertheless*
5. *Strongly encourages the State Party to continue its efforts in the preparation of the Management Plan for the deadline of January 2006, and to keep the World Heritage Centre*

informed of the progress during its preparation;

6. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a state of conservation report, including progress on the preparation of the Management Plan, by 1 February 2006 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session in 2006.*

69. Old Town of Avila and its Extra-Muros Churches (Spain) (C 348 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1985

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.78

28 COM 15B.97

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission, 10-12 March 2005

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

Re-designing of the Plaza Santa Teresa, located between the town walls and the extra-muros Church of San Pedro, including the replacement of traditional buildings with new ones.

Current conservation issues:

On 31 January 2005, the World Heritage Centre received a comprehensive report from the State Party in Spanish. As requested by the Committee, and based on the State Party report, a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission took place from 10 to 12 March 2005 to evaluate the impact of the re-designing of the Plaza Santa Teresa, which is located between the circular wall of Avila and the extra-muros Church of San Pedro.

The overall new urban design project was considered by the mission as necessary, as the previous state of the Square was very poor, and one that has achieved high quality results. In fact, the overall organisation of the Square has been significantly improved, with the definition of a new axis that emphasises the position and the architecture of the Church and of the wall's gate, and with the use of quality materials and urban furniture.

However, the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission observed that the new main building facing the portico of the Square is now a predominant feature for volume and height. The height taken as a reference for the new building was the maximum height of one of the former buildings, and the new construction is thus higher than the previous ones. The mission therefore

regretted the inversion of the dominant architectural values of the square, particularly as the ancient wall and gate have lost their former pre-eminence in favour of the new building.

Despite its height and volume, this building constitutes a high quality architectural work that it would not be possible to remove or alter.

With respect to the overall loss of World Heritage values, the mission concluded that they have not been compromised, reasoning that, should the new building have existed at the time of inscription, it would not have prevented the property from being inscribed.

The mission stated that there has been a weakness in the management of the property with regard to the protection of its World Heritage values, and urged the Authorities to strengthen the existing management tools in order to avoid all future risks.

The mission also noted that the initial nomination proposal of this property did not include a buffer zone or a Management Plan, and therefore recommended that an appropriate buffer zone be established (this would imply an extension of the present limits of the Historico-Artistico ensemble) and indicated the need for an in-depth revision of all the management tools for the core and buffer zones.

At the moment, different planning instruments exist, but their limits do not coincide and are not necessarily coherent with the inscribed property. The mission noted that the effectiveness of the main conservation tool, the "Special Plan for the Protection of the Avila Historico-Artistico Ensemble" (PEPCHA), should be closely examined.

For instance, the PEPCHA has been revised to allow the development of the project for the Plaza Santa Teresa, thus weakening its overall control and management function.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.69

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.97, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Thanks the State Party for having submitted an update report on the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Regrets that the municipality allowed the construction of a building whose height and volume alter the historic architectural values of the square;*
5. *Also regrets that the concerned authorities did not consult with the World Heritage Centre regarding the project in time so as to avoid the alteration of historic urban fabric at the Plaza Santa Teresa;*

6. *Acknowledges the importance of the design of the Santa Teresa square and the establishment of a visual axis between the church and the gate;*
7. *Urges the State Party to improve the reporting mechanism to the Committee according to Paragraph 172 of the new Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Encourages the State Party together with the local authorities to improve specific legislation so as to ensure appropriate legal protection of the historic urban fabric and structure on a national level;*
9. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre in the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise with an updated report designating the buffer zones;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a progress report on the legal status and the implementation of the protection zones by 1 February 2007 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007.*

70. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1985

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.79

28 COM 15B.80

International Assistance:

1987-1999: US\$316,149

Total International Assistance 2004: US\$19,775

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO missions in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005

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

Continued degradation of the civil architecture within the protected areas; uncontrolled development; absence of an urban development and conservation plan since its abrogation in 1996; lack of implementation by national and municipal authorities

Current conservation issues:

On 28 January 2005 the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre a report on action taken in response to the Committee's recommendations, "Istanbul Progress Report 2005".

The progress report from the State Party, as well as news from UNESCO and ICOMOS, indicate positive and promising measures taken by the authorities :

- a) The urban conservation plan for the Historic Peninsula was approved by the Istanbul Conservation Council;
- b) Revisions in the Turkish Conservation Law adopted in 2004 would enable the municipalities (Greater Istanbul and the two district municipalities concerned with the World Heritage areas) to take action within conservation areas. But this law is not yet in force pending the adoption of application regulations. ICOMOS hopes that the municipalities will be supported with financial resources and staff which will help them to handle the conservation problems within their territories;
- c) In response to the "Save Our Roofs Campaign" launched in December 2003 by the Turkish Timber Association with UNESCO support for the preservation of the timber houses in the protected area of Istanbul, the Government allocated an important budget. These funds, distributed through the office of the Governor of Istanbul in collaboration with the local representatives of the Ministry of Culture, include funds for the restoration of ten timber houses in the Zeyrek WH area. The district municipalities are currently establishing contacts with the owners of the architecturally important timber houses for the signature of contracts by the parties concerned. But funds from the Governorship have not yet been allocated to the district municipalities for this purpose. This activity, while modest, will be a good start to maintain and improve the historic neighbourhood of Zeyrek, thus complementing the urban rehabilitation actions initiated under the UNESCO-designed seven million EU - financed project in the Fener and Balat areas which are also in the Fatih municipality;
- d) The Fener and Balat Rehabilitation Project is progressing despite the initial reticence of the inhabitants to apply for the housing improvement grant. More applicants are coming forward thanks to increased efforts by the project team in neighbourhood-based information sessions. The Istanbul Conservation Council has granted renovation permits for some 30 buildings, while more are expected to be submitted by the project team for its review in the coming months. The renovation plan for the market and the cultural centres are also under preparation;

- e) The Ministry of Culture, the General Directorate of Pious Foundations, the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul, and the Governorate of Istanbul have initiated collaboration to address conservation problems and remedial measures under the framework of a project entitled ‘Istanbul: Museum City.’ Collaboration between several administrative authorities would facilitate the central government to provide funds to authorities like the Pious Foundations and the municipalities which own historic buildings. The project steering group is supported by professionals and experts from universities;
- f) The “Marmaray Rail” and “Bosphorus Tunnel” Project has been presented to the Istanbul Regional Conservation Council which has authorized the excavations for Yenikapi and Yedikule station upon evaluating the archaeological impact of the project;
- g) A seismic master plan has been developed and a research, training and implementation protocol for minimising earthquake risks on cultural properties was signed in November 2004 for a three-year project. Studies are underway by universities for the establishment of a national seismic hazard institution to work in this field;
- h) Several other conservation projects are being carried out: restoration of the Column of Constantine, restoration of Column of Marcian, restoration of Istanbul Land and Sea Walls, the Serefiye Cistern, and rehabilitation of the Gulhane Park;
- i) The Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO provided financial support under the International Safeguarding Campaign for Istanbul and Goreme, for the restoration of the Zeyrek Mosque / Church undertaken by ICOMOS Turkey. The restoration project should be completed by late Spring 2005;
- j) The Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO also provided financial support for the International Workshop on “Urban Management Development and Action Plans – Managing Historical Istanbul”, held in the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce on 6 - 7 October 2004, organized by the Turkish Timber Association with support from the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Municipality of Greater Istanbul, the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, the Municipality of the district of Fatih, the City of Barcelona and IMC Consulting Limited, the last two entities being the executing agencies for the Fener-Balat project. Some 90 participants

worked to formulate management models for different administrative structures (central, local and project management) concerned with historic Istanbul. Public authorities, experts and scholars from cities such as Rome, Barcelona, Marseille and London with similar experience were also invited to share their experience and proposals during the workshop.

UNESCO and ICOMOS underline that the State Party has taken steps to comply with the request of the Committee. However, the State Party is to be reminded of the concerns expressed over the technique and quality of the works being undertaken for the consolidation of the Theodosian Walls, as well as on the Church of St Serge and Bacchus in order not to undermine any further their authenticity.

UNESCO transmitted to the State Party in December 2004, concerns raised by conservation circles about the capacity of the archaeological team to undertake rescue archaeology operations in an urban context which require specialist skills. They also feared that a lack of coordination between the Ministry of Transportation (DLH), Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Istanbul Conservation Council, the Istanbul Authorities, the district authorities and the contractors of this project is delaying the execution of the works. The State Party was reminded of the recommendations of UNESCO to the Government of Turkey and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the co-funding agency for this project, concerning safeguarding measures necessary in the construction of the surface metro line, the tunnel under the Bosphorus and the train stations in Uskudar, Yenikapi, Yedikule and Sirkeci in the “Report of the UNESCO Advisory Team on the Marmaray Rail Tube Tunnel and Gebze-Halkah Surface Metro System” of December 2003.

Furthermore, ICOMOS was informed that tourist itineraries have been established and that an NGO concerned with reviving the historic quarters is publishing a guide showing the cultural heritage itineraries through the Historic Areas of Istanbul.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.70

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.80 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Noting with appreciation the conservation efforts made by the national authorities and the Greater Istanbul municipality and the district municipalities, as presented in the report submitted by the State Party, notably in approving the conservation plan for the Historic Peninsula, initiation of the seismic*

master plan and the financial allocation for heritage conservation of Istanbul, as well as the progress in the EU-financed Fener-Balat Rehabilitation project and the "Save Our Roofs" campaign for the preservation of civil architecture through a housing improvement policy ;

4. Also noting, the collaboration between the Ministry of Culture, the General Directorate of Pious Foundations, the Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul, and the Governor of Istanbul in addressing conservation problems and project development, including the "Istanbul: Museum City" project,
5. Requests the following actions from the State Party:
 - a) urgent completion of regulations to enable the enforcement of the Urban Conservation and Development Plan and to unblock central Government funds for use by the district municipalities,
 - b) greater care in the conservation techniques applied in the consolidation of the Theodosian Walls in order not to undermine any further the authenticity;
6. Also requests the State Party to ensure urgent completion and enforcement of the Urban Conservation and Development Plan, and greater care in the conservation techniques applied in the consolidation of the Theodosian Walls in order not to further undermine the authenticity;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit, by **1 February 2006**, a detailed report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations and benchmarks for addressing the issues raised in Decision **28 COM 15B.80** specifically with regard to including the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

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

71. Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley (Andorra) (C 1160)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2004

Criteria: C (v)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 14B.36

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Legal protection; Management planning and inventory

Current conservation issues:

In response to the Committee's request by Decision **28 COM 14B.36** paragraphs 3 and 4, the State Party provided comprehensive supplementary information, consisting of both a phased action plan, and a map section. Recalling that the legal protection remains a key issue to ensure the coherent legal protection of the property's cultural qualities, confirmation was received that this legal protection is now almost in place and that this will specifically apply to cultural landscapes. The Valley represents a link between culture and nature and constitutes a coherent unit with aesthetic, cultural and natural values. The decree was published in an official bulletin in January 2005 and remains open for comments for three months from April until June. After that period, subject to addressing comments raised, the Minister will recommend that the decree be adopted.

The report from the State Party provides updated information on the work to comply with the Committee's requests as follows:

- a) The State Party informed the Centre that the extension of the buffer-zone to include the plateau west of Pic Negre to Camp Ramonet will be confirmed once the negotiations with the Municipality of Sant Julia de Loria, following the inscription as cultural landscape, are settled
- b) A better definition of the zones of the Valley is currently in progress for agricultural uses to support conservation and ecological objectives of built and natural assets;
- c) Work has been initiated on a detailed inventory of built structures and archaeological remains on the property. ICOMOS evaluated the inventory carried out as detailed and comprehensive: the summary provides a very useful overview of the results, which could be useful in disseminating the record more widely; and
- d) It is confirmed that work on an access strategy will be part of the implementation of the Management Plan. Access is a key issue for the property, as it involves considering ways in which several different types of access can be achieved without compromising the qualities of the Valley. In particular, an access strategy needs to address the sometimes conflicting interests of visitors,

property owners, builders, farmers who want access to grazing grounds and forestry workers.

The lack of a road in the Valley has been one of the factors allowing it to maintain its qualities. When ICOMOS/IUCN carried out its assessment there was a very beneficial discussion with landowners on these issues. It was suggested that the State Party address this issue through the creation of an overall access strategy and provide the necessary access without the need for a regular road for motorized vehicles. At the time of the evaluation mission, the State Party was already considering alternative forms of transport that might be applicable.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.0

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.36 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for having submitted a comprehensive update as requested;
4. Notes that the legal protection has been addressed through a decree which ensures the protection of both natural and cultural values of the Valley, and that the decree is to be adopted in June 2005;
5. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the implementation of the Management Plan and on the adoption of the decree on the legal protection of the property and its implementation by 1 February 2006 at the latest.

72. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1996

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.58
28 COM 15B.81

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Urban development pressure

Current conservation issues:

On 31 January 2005, the State Party submitted a comprehensive update report about urban planning projects in the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and outside the buffer zone. *Core Zone:* Interventions focus on three types of urban elements: the refurbishment of squares, the demolition of two buildings including new constructions to replace them, and the redesign of two bridges.

Max Reinhardt Square: A redesign project has been started with the next stage being dedicated to the redesign of the Square's surface. It will include the removal of the pavements (Hofstallgasse), and the installation of a strip of lights. A 17th century fountain is planned to be relocated in the Square; *Makart Square:* Since the report of 26 June 2003, the subterranean garage project has been scaled down to a one-level structure. The competition-winning design project by architect Boris Podrecca for the surface of the Square remains unchanged; *Karolinenbrücke (Caroline Bridge):* In 2004 the steel structure showed signs of wear and structural fatigue, requiring immediate measures of stabilization. Among several different solutions for stabilization, the installation of six steel arches was chosen. *Makartsteg (Makart Foot Bridge):* Due to structural problems a renewal of the Makartsteg, built in 1967, became inevitable. Following an EU-wide design competition, the new double-curved footbridge was opened in 2001; *Alte Diakonie:* A new use had to be found for the building which consists of several structures. The adopted project, including a mix of apartments, offices and ordinations, complete with kindergarten and parking facilities, will start in 2005; *Museum der Moderne (Museum of Modern Art) on the Mönchsberg:* The Museum of Modern Art, which opened in 2004, was designed with the limitation to not exceed the size of its predecessor. It is already the third building on this location; *University Mozarteum:* The Mozarteum University building lately became unserviceable and had to be partly torn down. The new wings of the Mozarteum will be finished in 2006.

Buffer Zone and beyond: Several larger-scale projects are located in the buffer-zone and beyond the buffer-zone with a dominating tendency to high-rise buildings likely to impact on the visual integrity of the core zone. *Campus Nonntal (Uni-Park Nonntal):* Southeast of the Historic Centre an area has been designated for urban redevelopment with the removal of the existing dilapidated campus buildings. A wedge-shaped park area will stretch from the fields to the Historic Centre. Following an urban design competition, the building plans have been authorized. An EU-wide design competition for the University buildings is underway, the height is limited to five stories. *Tower Eleven:* An eleven-story tower was erected in 2004 as part of urban restructuring. *Railway Bridge:* Due to the accommodation of the railway Salzburg – Freilassing (Bavaria), the existing bridge over the river Salzach will have to be replaced.

Construction is foreseen to commence in late 2005. At present the City of Salzburg is committed to selecting a project which is in accordance with the significance of the Historic Centre of Salzburg.

Outside of the Buffer Zone: Square of the Train Station, Property of the Post A.G.: The area to the north of the Square is going to be redeveloped. It was previously occupied by the Post-tower with six stories. Redevelopment is foreseen in three sections: A building of five stories, apartment buildings and an office tower, although with no height indicated; the development and construction plans have been authorized. *Uzilinga Project in Itzling:* A project of several apartment buildings, with eight stories on average is being implemented in Itzling, located one km from the Historic Centre. Plans of the project will be submitted to the authorities shortly, building permits are planned in 2005.

Furthermore, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that a Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Salzburg is under development so as to provide comprehensive information on all World Heritage related issues in the future.

ICOMOS noted that the demolition of the New Festival Hall (Neues Festspielhaus) is not mentioned in the State Party's report. This building, erected in the 1920s by the famous architect Clemens Holzmeister, was the first building dedicated to the Festspiele (Salzburg festivals). Demolition followed the granting of authorization by the Bundesdenkmalamt (Federal Conservation Office) in Vienna, permissible under Austrian preservation law. Several projects were submitted. The redesign of Max Reinhardt Square has been temporarily postponed. The project for an underground garage on Makart Square, the entrance of which lies exactly on the axis of the church, was strongly opposed. The planned overall design of Makart Square was finally approved. The projects for installing elevators on the Mönchsberg and the Kapuzinerberg and for a tunnel through the Kapuzinerberg have been postponed. No objections were raised for two bridge projects – and these have been completed. The building of the Alte Diakonie is not protected by Austrian law. Its conversion into apartments, offices, a kindergarten, and parking should be reconsidered. The architecture of the Museum of Modern Art on the Mönchsberg, the subject of an international competition, has been criticized both by the general public and by experts. The building for the Mozart University is located on a very sensitive property at the Mirabel Gardens. This project should not be carried out in its revised form: it should be redesigned so as to achieve a better compatibility with the surroundings. No decisions have been reached about the area of the train station. There is to date no ruling by the Bundesdenkmalamt about the historic hall of the railway station or the so-called marble room, of which the loss of both would be very serious. The high-rise buildings planned for

the area have not been reviewed to evaluate their compatibility with the surrounding historic city (visual axis, etc).

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.72

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.81** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for having submitted the updated report and details of the preparation of a Management Plan for the World Heritage property;
4. Noting with appreciation that a consultation process between the State Party and ICOMOS has been started for the train station project, and encouraging it to further cooperate in the case of other urban development projects,
5. Notes, however, with concern that major high-rise projects undertaken in the immediate surrounding of the World Heritage property are likely to deteriorate its visual integrity;
6. Encourages the State Party to improve specific legislation so as to ensure appropriate legal protection of the historic urban fabric and structure;
7. Urges the State Party to avoid any construction and refurbishment that could negatively impact on the outstanding universal value of the property;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an update report on the situation by **1 February 2007** for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

73. Palace and Gardens of Schönbrunn (Austria) (C 786)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1996

Criteria: C (i) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

None

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

High-rise building project to the east of the Gardens, in the visual axis from the Gloriette (of Schönbrunn)

and the Vienna City Centre (especially the Cathedral St. Stephan).

Current conservation issues:

East of the gardens of Schönbrunn, in the quarter of Meidling, a business centre is under development with an architectural contest initiated by the City of Vienna. The favoured design includes a high-rise building of 120m. According to the State Party's report to the World Heritage Centre, the official decision on the final design is planned for autumn 2005.

The World Heritage Centre has furthermore been informed by individuals claiming that the high-rise building would have a major negative visual impact on the views from the Gloriette (a belvedere on the slope of Schönbrunn Garden) towards the historic city centre of Vienna, in particular its landmarks such as the Cathedral St. Stephan.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.73

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Thanks the State Party for having provided updated information on the state of the planning process for the area of Meidling;
3. Noting with concern that another high-rise building project is likely to affect the World Heritage property in Vienna,
4. Encourages the State Party to improve specific legislation so as to ensure appropriate legal protection of the historic urban fabric and structure including its visual integrity;
5. Urges the State Party to reconsider the height of this building project and to submit alternative solutions with less impact on the visual integrity of the property;
6. Requests the State Party to invite a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to the property before the decision on the final project is taken;
7. Further requests the State Party to provide an updated report to the World Heritage Committee by **1 February 2006** for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

74. Historic District of Québec (Canada) (C 300)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1985

Criteria: C (iv) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.60
28 COM 15B.85

International Assistance :

US\$ 26.000: Technical cooperation in 1991 (Québec Acts)

Previous monitoring mission(s):

ICOMOS mission 2001

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

Urban development pressure

Current conservation issues:

In the framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise, the State Party informed that the situation of the area of the Pointe-à-Carcy has remained unchanged since the previous session of the Committee. After having taken into account the recommendations concerning the project of a cruise ship terminal at Pointe-à-Carcy made by the ICOMOS mission in 2001, the State Party put forward a proposal to extend the boundaries of the property. Following a negative evaluation by ICOMOS, however, the State Party withdrew the proposed extension and decided to postpone any extension of the Historic District's perimeter until a later date. Furthermore, the State Party submitted a proposal for a statement of outstanding universal value for the property to be considered by the Committee.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.74

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.85** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for having submitted a comprehensive Periodic Report on the property;
4. Further encourages the State Party to consider re-submitting a proposal for an extension of the property and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on any progress made in this regard.

75. Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1994

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.87

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission from 8 to 16 November 2003;

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

Major reconstruction of the structure of Bagrati Cathedral; general need for interior and exterior conservation work of the monuments; insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 1 February 2005 which outlined in great detail the current condition of each of the monuments that constitute the World Heritage property.

No conservation or consolidation works have been carried out over the recent decade for Bagrati Cathedral, and the lack of care has worsened its physical state. In 2003, the Centre for the Reconstruction of the Architectural Heritage produced the 'Concept of Scientific Protection of Bagrati Cathedral' with financial assistance from UNESCO, but there is no Management Plan. Factors affecting the property include harsh climatic conditions, an ineffective management system, lack of financial subsidies, and interventions by the clergy. In the context of 'The Concept of Scientific Protection of Bagrati Cathedral,' the following studies have been carried out: geological and seismic research; analysis of the physical state of the Cathedral; research into the building materials; bibliographical studies; archaeological research; analysis of the methodology of reconstruction; and the concept of protection. The structurally unstable parts of the monument have been recorded, as well as the preserved fragments of wall paintings.

With regard to the Gelati Monastery, the report stated that two interventions made by the local clergy have affected the appearance of the observatory building and St. Nicolas Church, and that no Management Plan existed. Factors affecting the property include harsh climatic conditions, an ineffective management system, the lack of financial subsidies, and interventions by the clergy. In addition, diagnostic research of the wall paintings of the Virgin Mary Church was carried out by the Cultural and Art Fund of Georgia. This included the study of the archives, the condition of the frescoes, geological research of the area, research of the moisture content, and laboratory research (chemical and biological analysis). The condition of the basement, the walls, floors, and plaster was analysed. The condition of the fence needs attention.

The state of conservation report submitted by the State Party made no specific mention of the major reconstruction project for the structure of the Bagrati Cathedral discussed during the previous session of the World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Centre is in contact with the State Party to seek clarification.

This state of conservation report shows that the State Party is well aware of the condition of these two World Heritage properties. However, no long-term, effective steps have been undertaken by the Georgian conservation services to confront the very serious problems of these monuments. There are no Management Plans for the Bagrati and Gelati ensembles, and the UNESCO and UNDP-SPPD Heritage and Tourism Master Plan for Mtskheta has not yet been translated into Georgian. With regard to problems of funding, the State Party should be encouraged actively to undertake initiatives with international donor institutions in order to fulfil the highest priority need for the protection and conservation of the monuments.

Serious problems exist stemming from the current legal framework for monuments in Georgia, and particularly those relating to the ownership and management of religious monuments. To this is added the lack of strong and effective control of monuments and archaeological properties at all administrative levels. It is clear, however, that although ownership of ecclesiastical monuments in Georgia is constitutionally vested in the Georgian Orthodox Church, the management of these monuments is the responsibility of the State. In consequence, the state authorities should accept permanent responsibility for the preservation and protection of religious monuments as well as historical buildings and archaeological properties, and act in a timely manner to prevent any destructive intervention and reconstruction activity.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.75

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.93, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Encourages the State Party to take appropriate measures, including seeking of funds, to address conservation issues identified in the state of conservation report;
4. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by 1 February 2007 for examination by the World Heritage at its 31st session in 2007.

76. Classical Weimar (Germany) (C 846)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1998

Criteria: C (iii) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

None

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Fire at the Duchess Anna Amalia Library;

Current conservation issues:

On 3 September 2004, a fire destroyed about 30,000 books in the Duchess Anna Amalia Library, a 16th-century palace which is part of the World Heritage property Classical Weimar. The 400-year-old library contained the most outstanding collection of 17th- and 18th century German literature, as reflected in criterion (vi) of the inscription of the property. Most of the damage was caused by smoke and water, rather than flames. Due to their high value, the volumes could not be insured. The German authorities as well as private organizations immediately provided help both in kind and in financial terms. However, the situation remains preoccupying. The fire occurred shortly before the initiation of restoration work at the Library when the security system of the house would have been adapted to modern standards.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.76

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Regretting the fire damage at the Duchess Anna Amalia Library, part of the Classical Weimar World Heritage property and the loss of the extraordinary collection of literature, which is partly included in the register "Memory of the World",
3. Notes with appreciation the considerable immediate assistance provided to the property;
4. Encourages the State Party to continue its support to the restoration of the Library and to ensure appropriate risk prevention at the World Heritage property;
5. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a progress report on the restoration work at the Library by **1 February 2007**.

77. Etruscan Necropolises of Cerveteri and Tarquinia (Italy) (C 1158)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2004

Criteria: C (i) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 14B.43

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

Previous threats to the property identified in previous reports:

None

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre has received the Management Plan from the State Party by letter dated 1 February 2005. The State Party also provided on 30 March 2005 revised maps of the property that do not include the two museums.

ICOMOS studied the Management Plan for the World Heritage property. It noted that the chapter on visitor management provides little information and should include more detail on the following: parking, ticketing, signage, safety measures, facilities (bathrooms, rest areas, sun shades, and water), food facilities, shops/souvenirs, different touring options and routes, and presentation methods. It is suggested that this complementary information is presented on clear maps in a scale sufficient to recognize location, size, etc. accompanied by photographs.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.77

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.43**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for the timely submission of the Management Plan;
4. Commends the State Party for submission of the revised maps of the property inscribed on the World Heritage List;
5. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2006** with a) complementary detailed information on visitor management, presented on detailed maps and b) photographic documentation.

78. Historic Centre of Riga (Latvia) (C 852)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1997

Criteria: C (i) (ii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.69

28 COM 15B.74

International Assistance :

1996 - 2004: Preparatory assistance - US\$ 7,500; Technical Cooperation - US\$ 144,800; Promotional Assistance - US\$ 5,543;

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/ICOMOS site visit in 2003; France-UNESCO cooperation missions 2004 and 2005;

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

Regulations for building permissions and guidelines for new construction projects within Riga and its buffer zone; high-rise building project located in the buffer zone.

Current conservation issues:

As requested by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the State Party provided a report on Riga, submitted in January 2005, which provided update information on the implementation of the preservation and development plan as well as information on a construction project in Riga.

The Law "On Preservation and Protection of the Historic Centre of Riga" has been adopted in 29 May 2003 and entered into force on 3 February 2004. The Law states that the preservation of the Historic Centre of Riga is of priority importance in comparison to other city development interests.

The new Law confirms the precise area of the Historic Centre of Riga and its protection zone (buffer zone) borders; the procedures for regulations for the Historic Centre of Riga and its buffer zone which are determined by the Cabinet of Ministers; procedures that any new building, reconstruction or demolition that cause essential changes in cultural, historical environment is prohibited until the Preservation and Development Plan of the Historical Centre of Riga enters into force; the Preservation and Development Plan of the Historic Centre of Riga and its buffer zone is to be completed by 1 July 2004.

Due to the adopted Law on the Historic Centre of Riga, the Inspection has managed to modify a number of projects taking into consideration the cultural historical environment of Historic Centre of Riga.

In May 2004, Riga City Council City Development Department introduced the first draft of the Preservation and Development Plan of the Historic Centre of Riga. After analyzing the draft, the

Inspection requested the authorities to make revisions. The second Draft was submitted in December 2004 and the Inspection could consider approving the plan for the territory of the Historic Centre of Riga but not the buffer zone. The Inspection has noted a number of provisions to be implemented before the plan can be adopted by the Riga City Council.

There have also been changes in the General Construction Regulations stating that, building permission for any construction in a State protected cultural monument or its buffer zone can be issued only after permission of the Inspection has been presented.

The high-rise building in the buffer zone "Saules akmens" has been constructed to the initial height of 26 storeys instead of 15 as stated in the approved detail plan. The constructor has met some of the demands raised, by expanding the public function of the building and surrounding environment thus giving city inhabitants and visitors extra possibilities to enjoy the panorama of the Historic City of Riga.

Another project subject to debate is the construction of the international commercial centre "Centrs" in the Historic Centre of Riga. The project was reviewed by ICOMOS and has been revised following discussions with the Inspection. An issue still to be considered is the preservation of the street between the two blocks as an open public space.

Upon the request of the Latvian authorities and the Riga City Council, cooperation under the France-UNESCO Convention has been initiated and a second mission was undertaken to Riga with French experts in the field of urban conservation and planning, and wood architecture from 12 to 16 April 2005. Cooperation with the France-UNESCO Convention will help the Latvian authorities and the Riga City Council in developing a town planning strategy as well as defining an overall vision for the property. As a follow up to the ongoing projects on wooden housing conservation, the Riga City Council is considering creating a "wooden heritage centre". This project was also discussed with the Riga City Council during the France-UNESCO Convention mission.

The State Party is encouraged to finalize and implement the preservation and development plan for the Historic Centre of Riga, in close cooperation with the City authorities, and to ensure an overall vision for the property, including the town planning strategy and a comprehensive urban Management Plan. Concerted efforts for increased collaboration between the Riga City Council and the State Inspection for Heritage Preservation are vital in order to ensure the success of this process.

A positive result of the adoption of the law of the Preservation of Historic Centre of Riga is the declining number of negative impacts to the historic centre. This is also illustrated in diagrams contained

in the report. According to the Inspection, there may still be projects designed before the adoption of the law that might be contradictory to the preservation of Historic Centre of Riga. The Inspection is well aware of this and will inform the World Heritage Committee on any such project.

The Inspection has listed a number of provisions to be implemented before the redrafted Preservation and Development Plan can be approved by Riga City Council. ICOMOS has no information on how these provisions have been taken into consideration in the final version of the plan. However, the Inspection confirms that the adoption of the plan will occur only after implementation of the provisions.

There is no information from the Inspection concerning the confirmation of the preservation of the visual integrity of the Historic Centre of Riga or the preservation of the historical watercourses as open public spaces.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.78

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.43, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Acknowledging with appreciation the information provided by the Latvian authorities on the progress in the preservation and development plan as well as the overall planning arrangements and international cooperation in the development of a planning strategy,
4. Encourages the State Party to finalize and implement the preservation and development plan for the Historic Centre of Riga, in close cooperation with the City authorities, and to ensure an overall vision for the property, including the town planning strategy and comprehensive urban management;
5. Requests the State Party to carefully review all projects foreseen in the area and its buffer zone, and to conduct a visual impact study to ensure that new buildings will fully respect the visual integrity of the Historical Centre of Riga as well as preserving the historical watercourses as open public space without any new buildings;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre on the progress made in the implementation of the preservation and development plan as well as an update on the above-mentioned study on projects which may have an impact on the visual integrity of the property, by 1 February 2007, for examination by the World Heritage Committee

at its 31st session in 2007, a year after the completion of Section II of the Periodic Report.

79. Old Town of Vilnius (Lithuania) (C 541)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1994

Criteria: C (ii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

21 BUR (1997)

22 BUR (1998)

International Assistance:

2002: Preparatory Assistance - US \$ 20,000

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO missions 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000;

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

Rehabilitation and restoration programme; urgent restoration and infrastructural upgrading; revitalisation programme.

Current conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre has received letters from Lithuania citizens calling attention to a 'Detailed Plan' for Vilnius, which if approved, will have a serious impact on the Old City of Vilnius. Some of the issues raised are destruction of green spaces, development of high-rise buildings and changes to the historic character of houses.

The World Heritage Centre arranged a meeting with the Permanent Delegation of Lithuania and ICOMOS on 22 April 2005 to discuss these issues. The Permanent Delegation explained that, in response to the preparation of the 'Detailed Plan' for Vilnius, Lithuania invited three independent teams of experts to review the plan. According to the recommendations of these experts, this plan is being revised taking into account the importance of Vilnius and respecting its World Heritage status. Furthermore, on 20 April 2005, a new Law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage has entered into force, ensuring further protection to the cultural heritage of Lithuania.

A number of high-rise buildings have however already been constructed opposite the Old Town of Vilnius, outside the buffer zone. Attention has also been drawn to the wooden heritage in the construction areas where a number of historic wooden buildings are being demolished.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.79

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Noting with concern the information provided concerning the project for the construction of high-rise buildings located in the vicinity of the Old Town of Vilnius which will have a considerable visual impact on the property,
3. Regrets the demolition of the wooden heritage located in these construction areas which although not part of the World Heritage designated area, nevertheless form part of the cultural heritage of Vilnius,
4. Strongly urges the authorities of Lithuania to revise these projects to ensure the maintenance of the outstanding universal value and the integrity of the World Heritage property and reminds the authorities of their commitment to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention,
5. Requests the State Party to provide a detailed report on the development projects, the overall town planning and administrative provision in place to ensure the adequate preservation of the property to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2006** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

**80. The Megalithic Temples of Malta (Malta)
(C 132 bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1980, 1992

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

25 COM VIII.110-151
28 COM 15B.76

International Assistance :

US\$ 77,448 for the safeguarding of the monoliths at the property of Hagar Qim (1998) implemented for US\$ 22,779

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO mission 1994, ICOMOS mission 2001;

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

Vandalism; proposal for interim landfills for domestic waste near the Temples of Hagar Qim and Mnajdra in Qrendi; illegal construction of houses close to the Ggantija Temple; International Competition for a Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Heritage Park.

Current conservation issues:

A detailed updated report on the Project for a Heritage Park and the Development Plan was sent to the World Heritage Centre on 29 January 2005.

This report indicates that extensive security measures were put in place in 2001. The State Party is pleased to report that since then there have been no instances of vandalism to the Megalithic Temples. No illegal building works affecting the Temples or the Park have taken place since 2001. The apparent discrepancy here is attributable to the fact that the comments reported to the Committee in 2004 referred to the Ggantija Temple on the Island of Gozo, whilst the Archaeological Park is confined to the Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples.

The report recapitulates the details of the proposed Park, presented to the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). These are updated by a report on the International Design Competition held in 2004 (won by Walter Hunziker of Berne, Switzerland). The original design brief was amended following examination by the Technical Committee and the Competition Jury. A visitor survey and a feasibility study have been undertaken, providing further information on the present and anticipated visitor needs at the property. A single building to welcome visitors to the property is now being projected, instead of the two buildings in different parts of the landscape originally indicated in the competition design brief. The visitor centre is being proposed at the property indicated by the Jury as the ideal location, namely, the existing parking area. The scale of visitor facilities being projected has been reduced significantly.

The report draws the attention to the following points:

The decision to shelter Hagar Qim and Mnajdra was adopted by the State Party on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples in 2000, and is fully endorsed by ICOMOS Malta. Studies by the Scientific Committee came to the conclusion that protective sheltering would significantly mitigate the deterioration processes that are presently threatening the monuments, and that sheltering is presently the best and safest medium-term option, while research continues on alternative treatments in the longer term. The protective shelters are designed as a temporary measure with a lifetime of 30 years, with minimal impact on the ground, and can be completely removed. The visual intrusion caused by the shelters is considered justified by (i) the fulfilment of the responsibility to pass on the monuments to future generations and (ii) its reversibility. The shelters are being planned in the context of an intensive environmental programme to monitor their performance and to allow comparison with the situation before their installation.

High priority is being given to the development of Management Plans. Heritage Malta is working with English Heritage and the Wiltshire County Council (UK) as part of the Centurio Project co-funded by the Interreg IIC Programme of the European Union. Four seminars were held in October 2004; participants included planners, heritage managers, archaeologists and other key stakeholders. A strategy being developed to allow the six Megalithic properties, which vary considerably in extent, preservation, setting, management context, etc, to be covered by a single Management Plan. In addition to general conservation issues, other issues that are being dealt with on a property-specific basis include visitor flow and carrying capacity; documentation, landscape management, etc.

Considerable progress has been made over the past year in the complex process of drafting a Management Plan for six properties (seven Megalithic Temples) that differ considerably in a number of aspects.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.80

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,**
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.76, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for the reports provided concerning the conservation of the World Heritage property and on the project for a Heritage Park ,
4. Congratulates the State Party on the considerable progress that has been made over the past year in the complex process of drafting a Management Plan for six properties;
5. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre complementary information on Management Plan drafting, as well as on the project for a Heritage Park;
6. Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a detailed report on the Megalithic Temples, including information about illegal structures close to the Ggantija (Ġgantija) Temple on Gozo by 1 February 2007 for examination by the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee in 2007.

81. Cultural Landscape of Sintra (Portugal) (C 723)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1995

Criteria: C (ii)(iv) (v)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.72
28 COM 15B.77

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Joint ICOMOS/IUCN mission in 2001;

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

Lack of Management Planning; urban and tourism development pressure.

Current conservation issues:

In response to the Committee's requests since 1995 and an international mission to the property, the State Party provided the first comprehensive Management Plan for the entire property since its inscription. The document consists of both a phased action plan and an extensive map section. Special attention is drawn to the increased risk of fire due to higher temperatures registered during previous years in the area.

Following the Committee's decision, a mission to the property will be scheduled for late 2005 or early 2006 to review the state of conservation of the property as well as the progress in restoration work and overall implementation of the recently submitted Management Plan.

At the time of inscription there was neither a Management Plan nor an overall management regime. Being located near Lisbon, the property is under considerable urban development and tourism pressure.

In 2000, a joint ICOMOS/IUCN mission visited the site to discuss conservation and progress with management issues. The mission produced nine recommendations which were accepted by the Committee at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003). The mission highlighted the serious condition of some structures and the urgent need for a Management Plan that could address conservation needs and prioritise repairs, restoration and maintenance. The State Party was asked to submit a Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre by end 2001. Only in January 2004, did the State Party submit a Conservation Inspection Report of the property together with Phase 1 of a Management Plan, and the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) requested a comprehensive Management Plan (1st and 2nd Phases) by February 2005.

A Management Plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in March 2005. This document is in fact Phase 2 of the Management Plan, Phase 1 having been submitted in 2004. Phase 2 is an Action Plan, to guide concrete activities for the 2004-2009 period and contains a detailed description of each action's characteristics, goals, past and planned investments. The Action Plan includes 13 main goals which cover

not only the need to conserve the cultural landscape, but also the need to address the socio-economic context, to integrate the property into its surroundings, to use heritage as a means of generating benefits for the region, to ‘develop a sense of belonging by the various actors’, and to press for more benefits from tourism to be made available to the impoverished northern area of the buffer zone. The Plan is divided into four sections: enhance the cultural landscape, make it more dynamic, promote the area, and set up appropriate financing.

The final section summaries the funding (both incurred and foreseen). The Action Plan however does not address building maintenance or repair.

The State Party provided details of the Action Plan that was submitted to complement the Conservation Report and Phase I of the Management Plan submitted in 2004. The strategic aims of the Management Plan are to conserve and restore the property, give the area and its surroundings dynamism and produce benefits to those living around the property. The Plan should include mechanisms for managing the property based on coordination arrangements, through the establishment of a group/committee, which could include representatives of local communities. It is also suggested that monitoring and evaluation parameters are put in place and included in the Management Plan, so the Action Plan may be reviewed against the strategic aims of the Management Plan. The Management Plan includes arrangements and resources for the routine maintenance and repair of buildings and the landscape, and needs to be clarified to include those activities that are generated by, or benefit directly the World Heritage property. The Action Plan could be combined with Part 1 of the Management Plan to form an complete document that sets out approaches and background as well as actions, thus linking activities to the Outstanding Universal Value for which the property was inscribed.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.81

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.77**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Congratulates the State Party for having submitted a comprehensive Management Plan including a detailed action plan, financing and coordination mechanisms for the World Heritage property,
4. Requests the State Party to ensure that monitoring and evaluation indicators are put in place, and to better harmonize the aims of the Action Plan with the Management Plan, Phases I and II as well as to foresee resources

for ongoing maintenance of the built environment of the property;

5. Recalling that a mission to the property has been requested and noting that it is scheduled to take place in late 2005 or early 2006,
6. Asks the State Party to provide all arrangements for the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN mission,
7. Requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the implementation of the Management Plan and the progress made on the restoration work.

82. Historic Centre of Sighisoara (Romania) (C 902)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1999

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.73
28 COM 15B.94

International Assistance :

2003-2005: US\$ 20,000 (technical cooperation) for the revitalisation of the Historic Centre of Sighisoara (in process);

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO/ICOMOS mission in 2002;

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

Drakula Park project; Deterioration of the monuments in general and the fortification in particular; lack of protection and maintenance measures, local responsibilities, and financial strategy.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party is currently preparing a Management Plan for the property with financial assistance from the World Heritage Fund. This forms a part of the larger integrated conservation project aimed at revitalising the Historic Centre of Sighisoara.

The International Conference for the Integrated Development of Sighisoara and the Saxon Villages of Transylvania was organised by the Mihai Eminescu Trust and UNDP on 15 and 16 November 2004 (Sighisoara, Romania). In emphasizing themes such as the need for sustainable development and capacity building, the International Conference discussed a number of development projects concerning the World Heritage property.

At the time of the preparation of this document, the State Party had not submitted a state of conservation

report as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004).

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.82

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev.**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.94**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a state of conservation report and notes that a report on the property is due with Section II of the European Periodic Reporting to be examined in 2006;
4. Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by **1 February 2007** in order for the World Heritage Committee to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 31st session in 2007.

83. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1990

Criteria: C (i) (iv) (v)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.74

28 COM 15 B. 95

International Assistance :

2003: Emergency Assistance US \$ 29 540

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

Structural integrity and stability of the Church of the Transfiguration; long-term restoration and conservation projects; deformation of wooden structures.

Current conservation issues:

The Russian authorities submitted a report on an international workshop for the Conservation of the "Church of the Transfiguration of Kizhi Pogost" (18-20 December, 2003) to the World Heritage Centre on 2 February 2005.

The report reviews the main recommendations of the August 2002 International Workshop: A planned approach to restoration of the Church over four main stages up to 2014 is briefly described. The stages include: (1) preliminary works (1999-2002); preparation period (2002-2006); main restoration works (2006-2012); final period (2010 – 2014); (2) The report describes expenditures in 2003 and 2004 in line with the overall plan of expenditures; (3) The report further notes submission by the

Administration of "Kizhi Pogost" of a financial plan for conservation and restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration until 2010 to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, which was approved; (4) The representatives of "Kizhi Pogost" also noted that funding has been neither sufficient nor regular; (5) The report notes that participants expressed appreciation for the high quality of the design and restoration works carried out from July 2002 until December 2003 by the project leaders and site managers of the museum-reserve;

Nevertheless, the report leaves a number of questions open for review.

While the World Heritage Committee, in its Decision **28 COM 15 B. 95**, calls for the "Russian Federation to collaborate closely with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre regarding the developments of the conservation works", the international workshop of December 2003 was organised without the involvement of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Hence, it is difficult to compare the conclusions of the 2003 Workshop with those resulting from the 2002 Workshop, and assess progress made in meeting earlier recommendations.

Given the serious nature of the structural problems of the Church of the Transfiguration, and the decade ahead before planned works are to be completed, it would be useful to have detailed information concerning monitoring methods in place to measure any change in the structure.

The work plan contained in the report does not provide sufficient information or details to secure the large amount of funding necessary. Given that funding is described as inadequate and irregular, it would be useful for the Russian authorities to describe the full amount of funds required, the nature of commitments of all concerned to support the work, any expected shortfalls, and fund-raising plans to cover outstanding commitments.

The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS appreciate the continuing efforts by the State Party to improve the state of conservation of the Church of the Transfiguration. However, the State Party needs to look beyond the problems of the Church of the Transfiguration to the management problems of the overall property, as recommended by the 2002 Workshop. It would be particularly useful for the Russian authorities to clarify current efforts to strengthen the management regime for the island property, including: clarification of the boundaries and management strategies and the buffer zones of the property; clarification of risk preparedness measures in place for the entire property; clarification of tourism management in the region in relation to the values of the inscribed property.

Given the management needs of the property, it would also be useful for the Russian authorities to give priority to printing the Russian translation of the ICCROM Management Guidelines for World Heritage Properties. As has been noted by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on several occasions, and as contained in the recommendations of the 2002 International Workshop, the author/ translator and the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre have already contributed substantially to the development of this manuscript. The Russian authorities should complete this long outstanding project. The situation of Kizhi Pogost was further discussed at a meeting at the World Heritage Centre with the Permanent Delegation of Russia and the Chairperson of the Russian World Heritage Committee on 25 April 2005.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.83

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.95**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the authorities of the Russian Federation for the progress report on the organisation of the restoration works of the Church of the Transfiguration and the continuing efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property,
4. However regrets that the State Party did not provide a detailed report, as requested by the Committee, on the progress of the actual conservation works, detailed budget and funding sources as well as the overall state of conservation of the property;
5. Notes with concern the continuing uncertainty of funding for the restoration works and the overall inconsistent information on the management of the property;
6. Urges the authorities of the Russian Federation to collaborate closely with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre regarding the development of the conservation works and the management of the property;
7. Considers that in view of the lack of information on the state of conservation of the property and lack of follow-up to the recommendation of the 2002 Workshop and the recommendation of the Committee, the threats to the property are considerable;
8. Requests the State Party to provide reports to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, by **1 February 2006**, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006, containing the following:

- a) *detailed work plan with precise budget;*
- b) *comprehensive report on the steps of the conservation works including information on the impact of interventions on the conservation works;*
- c) *information on the management measures for the property;*
- d) *update on the status and determination of the buffer zone;*
- e) *information on risk preparedness measures in place for the entire property;*
- f) *clarification on the management of tourism in the region in relation to the values of the inscribed property;*

9. Decides to consider, on the basis of this report, whether or not the property should be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

84. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Serbia and Montenegro) (C 125)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1979

Criteria: C (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

[Years of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:
1979-2003

Previous Committee Decision(s):

26 COM 21(a) 17
27 COM 7A.27

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Monitoring mission in 2003

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

Earthquake; lack of Management Planning; urban development; integrity.

Current Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received on 1 February 2005 a report concerning progress in drafting the Management Plan for the property initiated in 2003. Subsequently, the World Heritage Centre received a letter from the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Transport, dated 15 March 2005, detailing concerns about the building of the "Verige" Bridge near the entrance to the Bay of Kotor.

The progress report for the development of the Management Plan is vague. Although the title clearly states “Progress Report of the Project of Drafting the Management Plan, for the period: 1st February 2004 – 1st February 2005”, and although the foreword states that “in the past period, the Regional Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage..., amongst other things, also carried out one part of the activities of direct and indirect importance for the procedure of drafting the Management Plan of the protected area”, the 6-page report makes no mention of work on this Management Plan beyond the information submitted in early 2004, and already reported on in July 2004 to the Committee. The report covers the following activities of the Regional Institute from February 2004 to February 2005: including research, studying and preservation of cultural heritage; cooperation with competent bodies, professional and other organizations and institutions (stakeholders); participation in professional meetings, seminars and conferences nationally and internationally; co-operation with international organizations for the preservation of cultural heritage (UNESCO, ICCROM, etc.)

ICOMOS is aware of recent changes of personnel at all levels within the Regional Institute, and suspects on the basis of the report submitted that project continuity has been negatively affected. The State Party is encouraged again to review and complete this critically important management instrument, in line with earlier recommendations (2003 mission; 2004 round-table). If the State Party cannot ensure its commitment, inclusion in the List of World Heritage in Danger may be re-considered.

Efforts made by the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Transport to ease traffic flow around the Bay of Kotor to protect the World Heritage values of the property, and his commitment to approaches that are “economically and ecologically sustainable” have to be acknowledged. ICOMOS underlines the need for a long-term Management Plan for the property taking into account future infrastructure.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.84

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 14B.78, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for the reports provided, concerning the progress in drafting of the Management Plan for the property initiated in 2003, and the concerns about the building of the “Verige” Bridge near the entrance to the Bay of Kotor,
4. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2006 with

complementary detailed information on Management Plan drafting and with a detailed report on the building project for the “Verige” Bridge near the entrance to the Bay of Kotor for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

85. Route of Santiago de Compostela (Spain) (C 669)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1993

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.77
28 COM 15B.79

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Enlargement of the Yesa Dam flooding a part of the Route;

Current conservation issues:

The State Party confirmed the information provided last year to reduce the dimensions of the reservoir. The compromise solution put forward for the Yesa Dam foresees reducing the affected stretch of the Route to a total of 4.2 km (instead of 9.4 km) - from 7.1 km to 3.4 km for the southern part and from 2.3 km to 800m for the northern part. This solution would thus avoid the flooding of the main heritage elements associated with the Route, that are the protected monuments of Sigüés and Ruesta. Alternative routes north and south of the reservoir are also proposed.

When this project was discussed at the 28th session of the Committee (Suzhou, 2004), the State Party had already accepted the arguments put forward by ICOMOS and proposed the compromise set out above. The full details of this proposal, with numerous maps and photographs have now been studied by ICOMOS. Recognizing the social significance of the Yesa Dam for the region and the minimal loss of heritage significance that will now ensue, ICOMOS accepts the compromise solution as presented. That part of the original Route which will be submerged by the heightening of the Dam will be preserved in a similar way to the section now beneath the concrete runway of the airport of Santiago de Compostela, which has already been accepted as part of the World Heritage property.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.85

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.79**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for having submitted the updated report on the project of the Yesa Dam,
4. Regretting, however, that the documents have only been provided in Spanish, and not in one of the working languages of the Convention (English or French),
5. Requests the State Party to report to the Committee according to Article 172 of the new Operational Guidelines, if any changes are made to the project as it was presented at this session;
6. Further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the final plans in the framework of the "National Water Programme".

86. Old City of Salamanca (Spain) (C 381rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1988

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.76
28 COM 15B.98

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

ICOMOS mission 2002

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

Urban development pressure.

Current conservation issues:

The Municipality of Salamanca provided on 25 February 2005 extensive documentation in Spanish only. The report details the changes to the Plan Especial within the boundaries of the World Heritage property, with additional official reports, plans, and projects. However, the changes made to the building plot of the *Adoratrices* was only documented by a single-page letter from the Caja de Duero reporting the decision to defer the building of the Auditorium pending the approval of the new General Plan. ICOMOS commented that the *Plan General de Ordenación Urbana del Municipio de Salamanca. Revisión-Adaptación 2004* takes into account the 26

modifications approved over the past two decades (of which twelve are located inside the boundaries of the World Heritage property), giving them further legality, and ends by legitimizing some important interventions that have a negative impact.

The document further recognizes that the boundaries of the World Heritage property have already been reduced and almost fragmented when compared with the consolidated historic fabric, since they exclude the areas that are undergoing immense changes. The boundary of the historic centre of Salamanca was fixed in 1989. The submitted plan, which aims at providing detailed information on the historic centre, indicates that the *Plan Especial de Protección y Reforma Interior del Recinto Universitario y Zona Histórica-Artística*, in force since 1984, satisfies 90% of the objectives relating to urban planning, building, and functional balance. New objectives have also been introduced, since it has been recognized that the *Normativa Edificatoria* shows some gaps and is vague and too permissive.

Further information provided contained the licences granted up to 2002, whilst the related files and tables outline the Auditorium project on the *Huertos de las Adoratrices* plot. Without taking into account the functional choice, either in general or in relation to the requirements of the specific area in terms of the equipment and the historic context problems, it should be emphasized that the choice seems to conflict with the *Objetivos y criterios de planeamiento*. It could endanger the achievement of a proper balance between services and residential uses, cause road system problems and vehicle congestion, as well as overload the already precarious balance between building and vacant areas.

Finally, it has to be stated that there is no reference to any integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage property as a whole as requested by the Committee (**28 COM 15 B.98**, paragraph 5).

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.86

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.98**, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Thanks the State Party for having submitted an updated report on the state of conservation of the property,
4. Regrets that the State Party did not provide the integrated Management Plan for the property as requested;
5. Encourages the State Party to improve specific legislation so as to ensure appropriate legal protection of the historic urban fabric and structure on a national level;

6. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a copy of the Management Plan as part of the documentation of the European Periodic Report for Section II and to provide a progress report by 1 February 2007 for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007.*

87. L'viv - the Ensemble of the Historic Centre (Ukraine) (C 865)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1998

Criteria: C (ii)(v)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.100

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

ICOMOS-German World Heritage Foundation mission from 23 to 30 January 2004

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

New constructions within the historic centre; lack of valid detailed planning documents; inadequate infrastructure including the sewage system.

Current conservation issues:

According to the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party on 3 March 2005, the Research and Restoration Institution continues work on the preparation of the architectural master plan. The report also outlines a number of legal and administrative measures taken to provide guidelines for heritage conservation in the city of L'viv. All activities relating to the restoration, reconstruction and regeneration of the historic buildings and new constructions within the historic areas of the city must be approved by the Historic Environment Preservation Department of the L'viv City Council, the State Service for Cultural Heritage Preservation, and by the Ministry of Culture.

The report also mentions that the City of L'viv was represented during the regional conferences relating to World Heritage (29-30 April 2005 in Balbrog, Poland and 21-23 September 2005 in Budapest, Hungary) and presented a number of conservation issues facing the City of L'viv.

Following the ICOMOS/UNESCO (represented by the German World Heritage Foundation) mission to the property from 23 to 30 January 2004, the State Party also provided reports (3 March and 5 April 2005) with detailed updated information on the specific construction and reconstruction projects within the

World Heritage property. This included Soz-Bank Mitskevich Square 4, Valova Street 15, Korolenko Street, Shevs'ka Street 6 and 12, as well as Halytskaj Street 10.

Research work on cultural heritage in L'viv is continuing and legal and administrative actions have been undertaken to create more favourable conditions for heritage preservation. The measures adopted at State and City Council level can improve the control of related formal procedures and establish more clearly the responsibility for decision-making. Despite such actions, the document reports that discrepancies between procedural requirements and daily practice occur.

Apart from the law enforcement issues, documents to justify decisions taken relating to the volumetric and functional aspects of land-use are required, and the time issue is crucial. As long as professional preparation and justification for guidelines remain pending, room for misunderstanding or misinterpretation of conditions related to development projects with the protected area will persist. An evaluation of the human and financial resources available is necessary in order to set a realistic time-frame for the actions being undertaken. In January 2004, the joint ICOMOS/UNESCO mission saw the need for very detailed analysis of part of the area of the World Heritage property. More general planning guidelines specifying the street lines, heights of new buildings or extensions to existing buildings, and the areas available for building plots should be considered.

Despite the statement made in the State Party report concerning requirements of the Order of the State Service for Cultural Heritage Preservation of 22 March 2004, it is not clear whether the city departments responsible for the historic housing stock are required to ask for and respect the opinion of the heritage preservation body in their decision-making. The exchange of experience with the authorities of other World Heritage cities and properties at the international level could be of great value and should be pursued.

ICOMOS provided detailed comments for the specific projects within the World Heritage property including a new construction at 15 Valova Street and the World Heritage Centre transmitted them to the State Party on 26 April 2005.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.87

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined the Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.100, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Commends the State Party for taking measures to improve the management structure and*

planning process and encourages it to continue their efforts;

4. *Further encourages the State Party to complete the revision of the Master Plan for the World Heritage property and notes that a report on the property is due under Section II of the European Periodic Reporting;*
5. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by 1 February 2007 in order for the World Heritage Committee to examine the state of conservation of the property at its 31st session in 2007.*

88. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated sites (United Kingdom) (C 373)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1986

Criteria: C (i) (ii) (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.82

28 COM 15B.102

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

UNESCO site visit in June 2003;

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

Controversial "A303 Stonehenge Improvement" scheme to upgrade the A303 trunk road and closure of the A344 road.

Current conservation issues:

The State Party submitted the state of conservation report on 31 January 2005. According to the national authorities, the Inspector's Report and recommendations following the Public Inquiry (17 February to 11 May 2004) on the A303 Stonehenge Improvement, originally expected in September 2004, still has not been published. In September 2004, English Heritage submitted the planning application for the Visitor Centre and Access Scheme, which was followed by a formal public consultation period.

The report also states that about 250 hectares at Stonehenge is undergoing grassland regeneration and reversion to chalk downland under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, is contributing towards improving the setting of monuments and biodiversity.

In addition, the excavations at Silbury Hill, which forms part of the Avebury site, have established that it is a robust monument with no major defects to threaten its stability. English Heritage is considering what remedial work needs to be carried out in the

longer term to deal with inadequate backfilling of earlier tunnels.

ICOMOS is concerned that about lack of progress in resolving the upgrading of the A303 trunk road, since this is essential before the A340 road, which crosses the property very close to the Stones, can be closed. It stated that in 1986, when the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, it had 'noted with satisfaction the assurances provided by the authorities of the United Kingdom that the closure of the road which crosses the avenue of Stonehenge was receiving serious consideration as part of the overall plans for the future management of the property.'

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.88

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.102, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Expresses its concerns that no progress in resolving the controversy over the "A303 Stonehenge Improvement" scheme had been made;*
4. *Takes note of the planning application for the visitor centre;*
5. *Requests once again that the Inspector's Report of the A303 Stonehenge Improvement Inquiry be provided to the World Heritage Centre upon publication;*
6. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with an updated report by 1 February 2007, in order that the World Heritage Committee can examine the state of conservation of the property at its 31st session in 2007.*

89. Tower of London (United Kingdom) (C 488)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1988

Criteria: C (ii)(iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7B.83

28 COM 15B.103

International Assistance :

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Visual impact of the building projects of the Minerva Tower and London Bridge on the setting and integrity of the property;

Current conservation issues:

According to the state of conservation report submitted by the State Party on 31 January 2005, the managers of the property, the Historic Royal Palaces, hired consultants to reconsider the issues of setting and visual integrity of the property following the Public Inquiry in January 2003. This was called to consider the development of a "Sky Space Model" which aims to define in three dimensions the visual setting of the Tower as perceived from pedestrian level, and to provide a tool for assessing the visual impact of proposals for development within that setting.

The report also indicated that the Historic Royal Palaces considered what policies might be appropriate to achieve Objective 5 of the draft Management Plan which is "to ensure that the wider setting of the Tower is adequately protected from development which is not compatible with technique status, dignity and character of the World Heritage Property". Detailed proposals were set out in a document "Towards a Strategy for Protecting the Setting of the Tower of London World Heritage Property". The public consultation exercise finished in early 2005.

The State Party also informed the World Heritage Centre that in July 2004 HM the Queen opened the newly improved Tower Hill as the immediate setting to the Tower of London. This was the last phase of an eight-year £20 million scheme to improve the setting of the Tower of London and to create a new public space for both Londoners and visitors.

At the time of the preparation of this document, the World Heritage Centre is contacting the State Party to find out whether the requested in-depth study on the possible impact of development projects has been carried out, and to seek updated information on the development of the Minerva Tower;

ICOMOS considers that the setting of the Tower needs to be defined and protected as a matter of urgency, given the pressure for new development in this part of London. The protection should be acknowledged in relevant local Strategic Plans so that the protection of the setting of the Tower takes precedence over development pressures where these are incompatible with protection of the outstanding universal values for which the Tower was inscribed.

The completion of the Management Plan for the Tower, and its adoption by key stakeholders, is a very necessary first step in this process. Given the admirable record in the U.K. for the completion of Management Plans for World Heritage Properties, ICOMOS would like to see this Plan completed,

implemented and respected by local Strategic Plans at the earliest opportunity, in order that the setting of this property is not further compromised. Recent planning approvals for the Minerva Tower and the London Bridge Tower (the Shard of Glass) have been granted, even though they were opposed by English Heritage for their impact on the Tower of London.

The State Party undertook considerable efforts to ensure that the setting of this monument is preserved as much as possible in the face of the development of this part of London, on either side of the Thames River.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.89 Rev

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,**
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.103, adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Takes note with regret that the requested in-depth study on the possible impact of development projects in the immediate vicinity of the property has not yet been submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
4. Welcomes the improvements to the setting of the Tower of London through the completion of the Tower Environs Scheme which has created a new public space in London;
5. Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with a progress report on the preparation of the Management Plan, the above-mentioned in-depth study and developments on the construction of the London Bridge Tower and the Minerva Tower 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.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PART A : STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS FOR ADOPTION REQUIRING DISCUSSION

90. Maya Site of Copán (Honduras) (C 129)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1980

Criteria: C (iv) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

27 COM 7 (b) 93
28 COM 15B.115

International Assistance:

Total: US\$ 167,825

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Monitoring mission in 1999

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

Construction of an airport in the archaeological area of Rio Amarillo, 17 km. from the core zone of the World Heritage property.

Current Conservation Issues:

In July 2004 the World Heritage Centre was informed by the Inter-American Development Bank of the project to build an airport in the region of Copan, within the framework of the "Mundo Maya" Programme, which aims to provide tourist facilities for visitors in the Maya region in Central America. The World Heritage Centre visited the areas of La Estanzuela, Rio Amarillo and Copan Ruins in December 2004 to inform the Government of Honduras of the Committee's concern about the development of an airport facility in the vicinity of the property. With the same objective, an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place from 13 to 20 March 2005. The missions reported that:

- a) The existing airstrip of La Estanzuela (2 km. from the Copan Ruins) continues to be used, in spite of the recommendation of ICOMOS in 2003. 187 aircraft landed in 2004;
- b) Construction in the vicinity of the property of Rio Amarillo (17 km. from Copan Ruins) was discouraged in 2003 because of the importance of the property, being the second outstanding archaeological property within the valley of Copan;
- c) The property of La Entrada (70 km. from Copan Ruins) has been disregarded by the authorities as it is considered to be a location without tourist attractions nearby, and could therefore not be profitable –as stated by the Government– in commercial terms. However, one to two hours travel by road is a regular travel distance for visitors in the Mundo Maya region from its main points of entry;
- d) Additionally, there is a helicopter landing strip in the core zone of the property, used primarily by Government. 23 helicopters landed in 2004.

Although an estimation of the foreseen airport operations was repeatedly requested, no official figures have been obtained from the Government. The Minister of Tourism informed the World Heritage Centre mission that the plan foresees using planes carrying 50 passengers, but no indication was given concerning the number of planes per day.

Staff from the *Istituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia* (IHAH) developed a survey in the area of Rio Amarillo and due to the significance of the archaeological remains made a clear statement, by official judgment No. 070-dia-2004, recommending to look for another location to install the airport facility. The World Heritage Centre draws the attention of the Committee to the importance of the Valley of Copan, reason why the national cultural heritage law provides special protection to the Valley as a whole. ICOMOS adds to this that the properties of Piedras Negras, Rio Blanco and Rio Amarillo must be protected due to their important scientific value for the overall understanding of the the cultural system of Copan and its potential role as a state.

Concerning La Estanzuela airstrip and the planned Rio Amarillo airport facility the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS missions concluded, in line with the 2003 ICOMOS recommendations, that:

- a) A no-fly zone over the core area of Copan Ruins needs to be established and strongly enforced;
- b) Operations of the Estanzuela airstrip must be halted;
- c) Plans for construction of the Rio Amarillo airport facility need to be reconsidered. The project threatens the conservation and presentation of significant archaeological remains, critical to the understanding of Copan. It will also create environmental problems and affect diverse social groups and their quality of life. Consideration should be given to other properties for investment that would serve not only tourism purposes, but would also strengthen commercial and industrial activities in the region, which could end the relative isolation of the western part of Honduras.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.90

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev.**,
2. Recalling its Decision 27 COM 7B. 93, adopted at its 27th Session (UNESCO, 2003)
3. Takes note of the UNESCO and ICOMOS recommendations and urges the State Party to establish a no-fly zone over the core area of the World Heritage property of Copan Ruins and relocate the helicopter airstrip at La Estanzuela, away from the ceremonial platform in the centre of the World Heritage property;
4. Encourages the States Party to reconsider the plans for the Rio Amarillo airport facility construction in view of the archaeological importance of the Copan Valley, with a view to its possible consideration as an extension to

the current World Heritage property, and to consider relocation of this airport to La Entrada (70 km away from the property);

5. Requests the State Party, in case it decides to build the airport facility in Rio Amarillo, to conduct an environmental assessment study examining the impact on the archaeological remains, as well as a comprehensive Public Use Plan for the World Heritage property to mitigate any negative effects that could occur at the World Heritage property of Copan Ruins as a result of the foreseen tourist development and to submit this Plan to the World Heritage Centre for consultation;
6. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a progress report by **1 February 2006**, for examination by the Committee at its 30th Session in 2006.

91. Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan (Mexico) (C 414)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1987

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

Previous Committee Decision(s):

22th Session of the Bureau (**22 BUR V.54** p.17)

International Assistance:

N.A.

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Monitoring mission in 2004

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

Urban development pressure in regions directly surrounding the property.

Current Conservation issues:

A joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was sent to Teotihuacan following a multitude of newspaper articles and letters from concerned organizations and individuals during the second half of 2004, which related to the construction of a supermarket in the vicinity of the World Heritage property, and in particular to allegations made by various parties ranging from destruction of significant archaeological finds without an archaeologist present, to allowing the developers of the Wal-Mart to ignore steps in the permit process. The mission's objective was to verify these accusations and to assess the store's impact on the World Heritage property. It consisted of Professor Giorgio Lombardi, conservation architect from Italy, and Mr. Michael Romero Taylor, archaeologist from the USA, who visited the property from 28 November to 4 December 2004.

The Wal-Mart is located 2.4 kilometers to the southwest of the Pyramid of the Sun, the most prominent architectural feature at Teotihuacan. The *Zona de Monumentos Arqueologicos de Teotihuacan*, the archaeological zone established in 1988 by presidential decree, comprises three areas:

Zone A is the core of the architectural monuments, including the pyramids. All of this land is owned by the federal government and administered by the *Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia* (INAH).

Zone B surrounds Zone A and comprises mixed federal and private land holdings. No new construction is allowed in Zone B by private land owners. Zone B contains significant archaeological remains, including the domestic archaeological property of La Ventilla recently excavated and now owned by INAH. La Ventilla is destined to be opened to the public within the next few years.

Zone C (otherwise known as the “*area de proteccion general*”) includes areas adjacent and to the west and southwest of Zone B and is made up of the historic town of San Juan de Teotihuacan, with a considerable amount of open land, much of which is used for cultivation. New construction is allowed in Zone C, subject to architectural and salvage archaeological requirements as directed by INAH. The Wal-Mart is located in Zone C, within a few meters of the boundary with Zone B.

Based on the property visit, a review of documentary evidence and on a questioning of professionals directly involved, e.g. archaeologists, the mission reached the following conclusions.

The construction of the Wal-Mart in Zone C of the Teotihuacan archaeological property does not affect the fabric of the World Heritage property. However, the visual integrity of the property with its setting can be compromised affecting its associated symbolic values. The archaeological stipulations prescribed by the *Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia* (INAH) prior to the store's construction adequately mitigated impacts to the immediate area where ground disturbing activity took place. No significant archaeological remains were destroyed during the construction of the Wal-Mart. The archaeological investigations that were conducted were done so using proper techniques as per the accepted norms. From the records investigated, the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission determined that archaeologists were on duty during the surface disturbing activities for the store's construction.

The stipulations mandated by INAH regarding the physical appearance of the store also adequately mitigated the visual impacts that the store has on the surrounding neighborhood, and to the archaeological property of Teotihuacan. These stipulations, stated in a letter from INAH dated 28 May 2004, included (but are not limited to): planting of vegetation to better

hide the new building; colors dictated for the building to blend into to the surrounding neighborhood; restricting the size (volume and height) of the building, so as to not overpower the adjacent historic center of San Juan de Teotihuacan, (which has grown from 15,000 inhabitants in 1984 to 56,000 today). From the top of the Pyramid of the Sun, the Wal-Mart is visible in the landscape, but not noticeably distracting. Visibility of the Wal-Mart from the Pyramid varies, and is affected by the time of day, humidity in the air and the amount of pollutants in the atmosphere.

However, indirect impacts from the construction of the Wal-Mart, and from anticipated new developments in the area, need to be better assessed and planned, so that the cumulative effects of such developments (i.e. to the cultural landscape, to archaeological deposits, etc., which are important characters in defining the significance of the archaeological property) do not adversely effect the integrity of the archaeological property of Teotihuacan.

In order to address, plan and implement actions to preserve and protect the World Heritage property, and to address the needs of the surrounding communities as they relate to the property, an integrated Archaeological Site Management Plan needs to be developed. A plan titled *Programa de Manejo, Zona de Monumentos Archeologicos de Teotihuacan*, produced by INAH in November 2004, is considered by the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to be only a start, a rough draft for a long-term Management Plan. It is recommended that a plan be developed and implemented that fully involves community participation including private individuals, businesses, organizations, and local and state government agencies. It should have a timeline when specific actions will be implemented, who will be responsible, and how the actions will be implemented. It is recommended that a commission be established comprised of representatives of each of the above stated entities to guide the process for developing and implementing the plan, as well as for providing recommendations on specific requests for new construction and development.

As a final evaluation, the UNESCO/ICOMOS mission concluded that from a technical-administrative point of view the Wal-Mart case appeared consistent; however, it has certainly had a negative impact on the symbolic value of Teotihuacán. In view of this consideration, the mission invited a reflection on the relationship between the symbolic value of all World Heritage properties and the development of the territory in which they are located; which, in other words, calls for the crucial question on how to ensure the conservation of the property, respect its symbolic aspect, while at the same time be responsive to the inhabitants' requirements. As such, the mission strongly reiterated the need for a comprehensive Management Plan for the archaeological property and

surrounding area of Teotihuacán, in order to regulate future actions.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.91

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,**
2. Taking note of the UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission report, including its conclusions and recommendations;
3. Regretting that the construction of the Wal-Mart was allowed without UNESCO being informed;
4. Further regretting that the symbolic value of the property was not considered by the local and national authorities before allowing such a construction to be made;
5. Urgently requests the States Party to proceed with the development and implementation of an integrated Archaeological Site Management Plan involving the local communities and other stakeholders in the process;
6. Further requests the States Party to submit a detailed report on the progress made with the design, adoption and implementation of the integrated Archaeological Site Management Plan by **1 February 2007**, for review by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

92. Coro and its Port (Venezuela) (C 658)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1993

Criteria: C (iv) (v)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.106

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Monitoring missions in 2002 and 2005

Main threat(s) identified in previous reports:

Deterioration of the architectural and urban coherence and integrity of the property; Lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms.

Current Conservation issues:

In August 2002, a joint UNESCO-ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission was undertaken to *Coro and its Port* to assess its management and state of conservation. The mission concluded that there were strong indications that the site met the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger

and it issued a list of fourteen recommendations to remedy this situation.

As requested by the Committee, the State Party submitted a report, dated 22 January 2005, in which it provided ample information about the creation and composition of a *Presidential Commission for the Protection of Coro, the Port of La Vela and their Areas of Influence*, its meetings, goals and activities. The report included details of the results of several studies, the plan for emergency intervention and the results of technical working meetings with the communities of Coro, La Vela and their areas of influence. Furthermore, UNESCO and ICOMOS undertook a second reactive monitoring mission to assess whether the site met the criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The mission took place from 12 to 19 April 2005. It reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of the first reactive monitoring mission of 2002, evaluated the overall state of conservation of the site, assessed if it met the criteria for danger listing and elaborated elements for a programme of action to strengthen the conservation and management.

The mission concluded that the State Party had committed itself at the highest level to address the issues of concern expressed in the 2002 mission report and the subsequent decisions of the Committee, particularly through the creation of a *Presidential Commission for the Protection of Coro, the Port of La Vela and their Areas of Influence*. This Commission has the task to prepare, over a three year period, an integral plan for the conservation and development of the area, including a proposal for a management structure. Furthermore, it noted the increased presence and control of the National Institute for Cultural Heritage (IPC) and advances in the consolidation of the Municipal Institutes for Heritage (IMP) of Miranda (Coro) and Colina (the port of La Vela). The mission noted, however, that most actions were in the planning phase and that the results, scope and impact of the work of the Presidential Commission on the state of conservation of the site could only be assessed at a later stage. In the meantime, the World Heritage property is not managed as one integrated whole, there is no conservation plan and actions and interventions are *ad-hoc* and isolated. The mission concluded, therefore, that the conclusions and recommendations of the 2002 mission remained valid.

In addition, the mission was informed that heavy rains occurred between November 2004 and February 2005 and that these rains caused severe damage to a great number of structures, both in Coro and La Vela.

A comparison of the state of conservation between the years 2002 and 2005 revealed a surprisingly high level of deterioration of the historical centre of Coro. The buildings that have the highest level of protection (national monuments and buildings with total protection) are the ones that were most affected by the

recent rains (50 and 83 % respectively). As to La Vela, although no detailed assessment of the damages was available, the mission noted a marked deterioration as compared to 2002 and that more than a quarter of the buildings is in critical conditions.

In addition, the mission observed a serious deterioration of the authenticity and integrity of the urban ensemble, particularly in La Vela. In 2002, 41% of the constructions had no heritage value, a situation that is aggravated by the deteriorated state of conservation of numerous historic structures as well as the construction of inappropriate walls and fences.

It should also be noted that in the framework of the bicentenary of the arrival of Francisco de Miranda, the municipality of Colina (the port of La Vela) is planning the construction of a new monument, a beach walkway and an entrance gate to the city. These are located along the beach in the buffer zone of the World Heritage site and in their present form, could have a considerable impact on the values of the site and disrupt the relation of the port city with the water.

As per Decision of the Committee (**28 COM 15B.106**), the World Heritage Centre in consultation with ICOMOS initiated the preparation of a SIRCHAL stakeholder workshop (*Site International sur la Revitalisation des Centres Historiques des villes de l'Amérique Latine et Caraïbes*) under the France-UNESCO Cooperation programme foreseen in Coro for the start of 2005 to contribute to the planning process. However, due to difficulties in communication and delays, this workshop did not take place.

The mission concluded that the property meets the following criteria for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

- Serious deterioration of materials
- Serious deterioration of structures
- Serious deterioration of town-planning coherence
- Lack of conservation policy.

The mission confirmed the validity of the conclusions and recommendations of the reactive monitoring mission of 2002, identified elements for a programme of action to strengthen the management and conservation of the site and established the following benchmarks for the future assessment of the effectiveness of measures the State Party may take in response:

- Adoption and effective implementation of an Emergency Action Plan;
- Adoption and implementation of a comprehensive integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage property;

- Adoption and implementation of an effective Management Structure;
- Marked improvement of the state of conservation of the property, both in terms of individual structures and the urban ensembles of Coro and La Vela.

The World Heritage Centre transmitted, on 9 May 2005, the mission report to the national authorities of the State Party for comments. On 10 June 2005, at the time of the finalization of this report, no response had been received.

Draft Decision : 29 COM 7B.92 Rev

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29 COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decisions 27 COM 7B.102 and 28 COM 15B.106,
3. Takes note of the report of the second UNESCO / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission;
4. Commends the State Party for having committed itself at the highest level to address the issues of concern expressed in the 2002 mission report and the subsequent decisions of the Committee, particularly through the creation of a Presidential Commission for the Protection of Coro, the Port of La Vela and their Areas of Influence;
5. Notes with satisfaction the inter-institutional nature of the Commission and its integrated vision on conservation and development;
6. Notes, however, that most actions are in the planning phase and that the results, scope and impact of the work of the Presidential Commission on the state of conservation of the site can only be assessed at a later stage and that in the meantime, the World Heritage property is not managed as one integrated whole and that there is no conservation plan;
7. Notes furthermore that the gradual and considerable deterioration in the state of conservation, authenticity and integrity of the property was considerably aggravated by heavy rains that occurred between November 2004 and February 2005;
8. Expresses its deep concern about the state of conservation of the property and the lack of adequate management, planning and conservation mechanisms;
9. Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations issued by the UNESCO-ICOMOS missions of 2002 and 2005 and requests the State Party to develop a time-bound plan for their implementation;

10. Recalls article 11.4 of the Convention and paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines with regard to ascertained danger (including serious deterioration of materials, serious deterioration of structures and serious deterioration of town-planning coherence) and potential danger (lack of conservation policy);

11. Decides to inscribe Coro and its Port on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

12. Adopts the following benchmarks for the future assessment of the effectiveness of measures to be taken by the State Party:

- Adoption and effective implementation of an Emergency Action Plan;
- Adoption and implementation of a comprehensive integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage property;
- Adoption and implementation of an effective Management Structure;
- Marked improvement of the state of conservation of the property, both in terms of individual structures and the urban ensembles of Coro and La Vela.

13. Requests the State Party to submit a progress report including a time-bound plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2002 and 2005 UNESCO / ICOMOS missions and information on the progress made in their implementation, by 1 February 2006 for review by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

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

93. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) (C 526)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List: 1990

Criteria: C (ii) (iv) (vi)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.113

International Assistance:

Total: US\$ 82,207

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Monitoring missions in 1998 and 2001

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

Inappropriate conversion of historic houses in the city centre to accommodate tourism-related functions.

Current Conservation Issues:

At the time of the drafting of the present report (April 2005), the Secretariat had not received a report from the State Party.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.93

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.113 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Regrets that no information has been provided by the State Party, as requested in its Decision of 2004;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide a State of Conservation report by 1 February 2006 for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

94. Fortifications on the Caribbean side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo (Panama) (C 135)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1980

Criteria: C (i) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.118

International Assistance:

Total: US\$ 73,888

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Monitoring mission in 2001

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

Deterioration and destruction of the fabric by environmental factors, mainly water erosion; Absence of management policies; Uncontrolled urban development and tourism pressures (in particular Portobelo).

Current Conservation Issues:

On 26 March 2005, the World Heritage Centre received information from the State Party, supplemented by information received from the World Monuments Fund (WMF) on 11 April 2005, concerning the study *Proyecto Piloto de Panama*, sponsored and executed by WMF and recently submitted to the *Instituto Nacional de Cultura* (INAC) Panama. The project encompasses three phases:

First phase (executed): analysis of the threats affecting Portobelo and San Lorenzo and identification of its causes. The study concluded that the main factor

threatening San Lorenzo's Fort is the lack of a proper water drainage system, while in Portobelo the main threats derive from seawater erosion and urban pressure.

Second phase (executed): on the basis of the study carried out in phase 1, a new water drainage system was put in place in San Lorenzo.

Third phase (in progress): concentrates conservation efforts in the Portobelo complex. This phase has three main components, being 1) restoration, consolidation and renewal of the water drainage system in Portobelo's Fortress; 2) needs assessment of the Fortaleza de Santiago; 3) proposal for the rehabilitation of the central urban area of Portobelo.

From the reports it can be established that the issues regarding uncontrolled urban development and tourism pressures reflect the absence of comprehensive Management Planning for the World Heritage property. Several plans have been developed that apparently have not been implemented, or only partially. The causes of this failure can be attributed to a lack of: feasibility of the plans proposed; integrated approach among stakeholders; articulation with territorial and municipal development plans; precise limits and buffer zones of the properties (the 2002 Reactive Monitoring mission underlined the need to define precise limits and buffer zones that take into account not only all existing historic remains and subsurface deposits, but also the visual integrity that reflects the strategic placement of architecture within the landscape).

ICOMOS praises the progress in the conservation works carried out in Portobelo and San Lorenzo, but at the same time stresses the need for a precise assessment of the significance of the whole World Heritage property, which should ultimately lead to a comprehensive long-term action plan with a prioritized course of action for research, prevention, conservation, monitoring, maintenance and presentation. Furthermore, ICOMOS underlines that the proposals for future interventions should consider possible impacts on the values, and integrity and authenticity of the properties. It further adds that, as the fortifications are subjected to several on-going conservation and restoration activities, initiated by different entities, it is necessary to coordinate efforts in order to avoid duplication.

Finally, regarding the increase of tourism pressures, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS consider that although increased visitation could provide for economic benefits, it also requires more extensive archaeological and conservation work, putting in place comprehensive protection measures, and, most importantly, proper presentation and interpretation of what is to be visited. These measures are critical for the understanding and valorisation of San Lorenzo and Portobelo, not only with regard to the significance of its cultural heritage, but also of its natural heritage.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.94

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.118 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, China 2004),
3. Taking note of the information transmitted by the State Party on the progress in the restoration project Proyecto Piloto de Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo,
4. Reiterates its invitation to the State Party to submit a request for International Assistance to support in particular the development of management policies for the World Heritage property;
5. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a progress report by 1 February 2007 for examination by the Committee at its 31st session in 2007.

95. Archaeological Site of Chavín (Peru) (C 330)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1985

Criteria: C (iii)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.104

International Assistance:

Total: US\$ 75,550

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Monitoring mission in 1999

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

Water erosion and destabilisation of one of the main structures; No archaeological surveys conducted prior to the road construction in La Banda zone; Lack of a Master Plan.

Current Conservation issues:

On 28 January 2005, the World Heritage Centre received the State of Conservation report concerning the archaeological area of La Banda and the project for the rehabilitation of the road Tunel Kahuizh-San Marcos. As explained in the report, the initial track of the road was planned to go along the right side of the Mosna River, in order to protect the Archeological Property of Chavin. However, as a result of the discovery of archeological remains on the right bank of the river, there was a need for rescue archaeological interventions.

Within the framework of an agreement between the National Institute of Culture (INC) and the Ministry of Transport and Communication, in cooperation with

the Stanford University, the project for the "Archaeological Rescue of La Banda" was carried out from May to August 2004. The track of the road was modified and now the damage for the La Banda area is categorized by the government as minimal. The report did not enclose a copy of the agreement between the two institutions, while the World Heritage Centre has not received any further information about other archaeological surveys in the area where the new track of the road has been accepted.

ICOMOS is reassured that precautions were taken by the State Party to avoid damage to the main archaeological property. However, it strongly recommends that there should be statutory provisions for archaeological evaluation, by geophysical and other non-destructive means as well as selective excavation, of all areas in and around the World Heritage property in advance of any form of intervention for infrastructural or other reasons. No works of this kind should be permitted to begin until the archaeological survey has been completed.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.95

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.104 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Taking note of the information provided by the States Party,
4. Urges the State Party to develop a Management Plan for the Archaeological Property of Chavin, including La Banda, which should include statutory provisions for archaeological evaluation of all areas in and around the World Heritage property in advance of any form of intervention;
5. Requests the States Party to send an outline of a Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2006 for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

96. City of Cuzco (Peru) (C 273)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1983

Criteria: C (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.119

International Assistance:

Total: US\$ 92,000

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Lack of an approved Master Plan; Lack of maintenance of historic buildings, as well as the effect of heavy traffic on historic buildings and the use of reinforced concrete in the centre of town.

Current Conservation issues:

The World Heritage Centre received a State of Conservation report from the State Party on 31 January 2005, indicating that a prohibition for the use of reinforced concrete and regulations for the use of earthen constructions would depend on the results of an inventory of materials and architectural typologies according to each quarter of the protected area of the city. This inventory was scheduled for completion around mid-2005.

The World Heritage Centre also received a Draft Master Plan for the City of Cuzco. The plan is divided into three main sections: the Historic City, an Action Plan for Revitalization, and the protection of the Historic Centre. The first part contains a historical overview of the city from its origins to the present. The second part involves socio-cultural aspects, demography, cultural heritage, Inca archaeology, urbanism, land use, transport, environment, tourism and legal protection. The third part describes objectives, methodology and general actions concerning the Master Plan. ICOMOS commented that from a conceptual point of view the Draft Master Plan was very well conceived, complete and could be used as a model for other urban sites. However, this Master Plan has not yet been institutionalized.

One of the actions presented in the Plan, but not yet implemented, relates to the Historic Buildings of Cuzco and proposes, among other initiatives, the establishment of a catalogue, a computerized cadastral map, the improvement of administrative procedures and the modification of Law No. 27157 concerning constructions in the Historic Centre.

The State Party also submitted a Master Plan for the Archaeological Park of Saqsaywaman, divided into two parts. The first part is a description of methodologies, general aspects, historical background and problems. The second part contains proposals for territorial division of protected areas and the implementation of a contingency plan.

The World Heritage Centre was informed of the interest of the State Party to include the Archaeological Park of Saqsawaman as an extension to the protected area of the City of Cuzco and its

buffer zone. Including the Archaeological Park of Saqsaywaman, the historic area would increase to a total of 3,353 ha. The National Institute for Culture (INC) designated a special commission with a Directorial Resolution No. 300/INC-C on 3 December 2004 to elaborate this proposal. The World Heritage Centre has informed the Peruvian authorities that a new nomination file for the extension of the inscription of the City of Cuzco, including the Archeological Park of Saqsaywaman, would need to be submitted.

ICOMOS commented that the proposal for the extension was well prepared and presented, and that it was based on the recommendations made by ICOMOS in 1983 when the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Management Plan for the archaeological property of Saqsaywama is complete and, contrary to the Master plan for the historic city of Cuzco, the cost estimates for the projects foreseen in 2005-2006 are clearly stated.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.96

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,*
2. *Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.119 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),*
3. *Taking note of the information provided and congratulating the States Party on the efforts made in the elaboration of the Draft Master Plan for the City of Cuzco and the Management Plan for the archaeological property of Saqsaywama,*
4. *Urges the States Party to finalize the procedure for, and start implementation of the Master Plan for the World Heritage City of Cuzco;*
5. *Requests the States Party to keep the World Heritage Committee informed on the progress in the adoption and implementation of the Master Plan.*

97. Historical Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
2000

Criteria: C (i) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.121

International Assistance:

Total: US\$ 75,000

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Frequent seismic activity in the region, plus flooding during the rainy season.

Current Conservation issues:

On 18 January 2005, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre an outline programme for Emergencies and Disaster Reduction, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session. The document includes a brief description of the objectives of the plan for whose implementation four general programmes have been developed, including Environmental Norms, Disaster Prevention, Environmental Management and Cultural Heritage Recuperation. The outline programme was developed by the National Institute of Culture (INC), the Municipal Government of Arequipa, the Historic Centre Municipal Office and the Historic Centre Technical Office, with the cooperation of the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation (AECI).

The four programmes cover a wide range of activities, from heritage restoration, urban development, environmental policies, services evaluation, to monitoring. Most of these projects are at a planning stage. The Technical Office for the Historic Centre also sent a Revitalization Plan, including actions and progress made in 2004 in the conservation and restoration of the Historic Centre. Furthermore, information was received from professionals and people working in the tourism sector concerning a project for the demolition of the old Tower of the San Agustín Church with plans for building a new one. While different proposals have been developed, no proposal related to the works has been received by the World Heritage Centre.

At its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the Committee also requested the State Party to provide information concerning the demolition of historic houses through Resolution 073-2003-INCDA; however, no information about this matter was received.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.97

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev,**
2. Recalling its Decision 28 COM 15B.121, adopted at its (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Taking note of the finalization of the outline programme for Emergencies and Disaster Reduction, and regretting that no information was provided on the demolition of the immovable heritage in 2003 in the Historic Centre of Arequipa, by Resolution 073-2003-INCDA, as requested at its 28th session,
4. Encourages the States Party to implement the Emergencies and Disaster Reduction Plan at the soonest;

5. Requests the States Party to send detailed information to the World Heritage Centre concerning the interventions foreseen for the San Agustín Church and Tower by 1 February 2006, for examination by the Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

98. Lines and Geoglyphs of Nazca and Pampas de Jumana (Peru) (C 700)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1994

Criteria: C (i) (iii) (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

22 COM XII.6B 2.2.5 p.49
24 EXT BUR IV 78

International Assistance:

Total: US\$ 50,000

Previous monitoring mission(s):

None

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

Damage caused by illegal mining and farming activities; The continued traffic of vehicles through the geoglyphs; Lack of systematic monitoring of the property.

Current Conservation issues:

In the course of 2004, the World Heritage Centre received many messages of concerned individuals and organizations related to the deterioration of the Lines and Geoglyphs of Nazca and Pampas de Jumana. Upon request of the World Heritage Centre, the National Institute for Culture of the Peruvian Government (INC) submitted a state of conservation report on the property.

The report explained that the reports concerning the state of conservation of the property made by several national media were not accurate. The INC comments that the damages caused to the geoglyphs by car tracks were made some 20 years ago, and that no new tracks have appeared on the property recently. However, the report also informed that some damages are caused by the continued use of these old tracks.

The report included a brief description of the actions taken by the Peruvian Government and the Multisectorial Commission for the Formulations of Proposals and Actions Related to Peruvian Properties Inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List (D.S. No. 037-2004-RE). Some activities scheduled for this year include the reinforcement in the protection and security of the Nazca Pampas by the police and INC guards. It also includes an evaluation of the projects for new roads proposed near the area by the Ministry of Transport and Communications, as well as

the planning for the establishment of monitoring units at five critical points on the property, and the acquirement of vehicles and communication equipment. The report did not attach precise information on the development of the monitoring plan or the specific places considered as critical.

ICOMOS had also received many messages of concern about the state of conservation of the property and commented that the essential problem concerned a lack of control and monitoring along the Pan-American Highway, which crosses the property. This lack of control leads almost inevitably to visitors deviating from the road into the desert, in particular drivers of Sports Utility Vehicles (SUV's). Improved control and monitoring of the property are urgently called for.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.98

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Taking note of the information provided by the States Party,
3. Requests the States Party to take the appropriate measures to halt the uncontrolled use of, and resulting damages to, the protected area, including continued vehicular traffic through the geoglyphs and dumping of solid waste;
4. Further requests the States Party to present a detailed report to the World Heritage Centre on the systematic monitoring measures and activities implemented by the Multisectorial Commission, by **1 February 2006**, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session in 2006.

99. Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay) (C 747)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List:
1995

Criteria: C (iv)

Previous Committee Decision(s):

28 COM 15B.105

International Assistance:

None

Previous monitoring mission(s):

Monitoring mission in 2002

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

Inappropriate architectural and urban design for a hotel-casino in a building block at the old harbour;

Need to strengthen Management Planning for the historic quarter.

Current Conservation issues:

The State Party did not submit a formal report on the implementation of the Committee's decision, but has kept the Regional Adviser for World Heritage, based at the UNESCO office in Montevideo, informed on the progress in the various conservation issues.

The design for the hotel-casino is being further revised in the light of the recommendations issued by the ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission of May 2004, which had been reported to the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session. To this date, this process has not been concluded. At the same time, an environmental impact study is being undertaken that includes the archaeological survey of the area.

As to the Management Planning, the Commission for the Management Plan of Colonia is meeting regularly and to study and establish the basis for the Management Plan.

Draft Decision: 29 COM 7B.99

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-05/29.COM/7B.Rev**,
2. Recalling its Decision **28 COM 15B.105** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004),
3. Requests the States Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the progress in the revision of the hotel-casino project and the preparation of the Management Plan for the World Heritage property.