



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

32 COM

Distribution Limited

WHC-08/32.COM/7A

Paris, 22 May 2008

Original: English / French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

World Heritage Committee
Thirty second Session
Quebec City, Canada
2 - 10 July 2008

Item 7A of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of the properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section IV B, paragraphs 190-191 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the Committee shall review annually the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This review shall include such monitoring procedures and expert missions as might be determined necessary by the Committee.

This document contains information on the state of conservation of thirty four natural and cultural properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies therefore submit herewith reports for review by the Committee. Where appropriate, the World Heritage Centre or the Advisory Bodies will provide additional information during the session of the Committee.

Decision required: The Committee is requested to review the following state of conservation reports. 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/2008/>

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II. STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS

NATURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

1. Manovo-Gounda St Floris National Park (Central African Republic) (N 475)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1988

Criteria

(ix) (x)

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

1997

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Illegal grazing;
- b) Uncontrolled poaching by heavily armed groups and subsequent loss of up to 80% of the Park's wildlife;
- c) Deteriorating security situation and the halt of tourism.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The desired state of conservation has yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

No corrective measures were adopted by the World Heritage Committee. However, the 2001 World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission did propose an emergency rehabilitation plan. Main components of this plan were:

- a) Zoning of the park, materialization of its limits;
- b) Development of a management plan;
- c) Inventory of wildlife in the park together with a cartography of major habitats;
- d) Management actions to conserve biodiversity and protect fragile ecosystems;
- e) Development of a cooperation mechanism with all stakeholders, in particular local communities, government services, projects and hunting concessionaires;
- f) Strengthening law enforcement in the property.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No timeframe has been set.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.1; 30 COM 7A.1; 31 COM 7A.1

International Assistance:

Total amount provided to the property: USD 296,653 for emergency assistance and technical cooperation.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A.

Previous monitoring missions

2001: World Heritage Centre/IUCN monitoring mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Insecurity;
- b) Poaching;
- c) Mining;
- d) Transhumance and illegal grazing;
- e) Illegal fishing;
- f) Lack of resources.

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report, dated 20 June 2007, on the state of conservation of the property. In addition, the World Heritage Centre received a letter dated 27 February 2008, in which the State Party notes that the activities under phase IV of the European Union (EU) - funded *Ecosystèmes Forestiers d'Afrique Centrale* programme (ECOFAC) have now started, but which does not provide additional information on the situation in the property.

The continued insecurity again did not allow for the organisation of the World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission, which has been requested by the World Heritage Committee since its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004). Missions planned for 2006, 2007 and 2008 were postponed due to insecurity.

The data provided by the State Party report clearly indicate the seriousness of the situation. Already the 2005 wildlife inventory documented the rapidly dwindling wildlife resources in the property and the rest of northern Central African Republic (CAR). The further degradation of the security situation since, resulting in further increasing poaching pressures makes it highly likely that the values of the property may have been further eroded.

In its report of June 2007, the State Party emphasized the difficulty it experienced in controlling poaching between phase III (2005) and IV of the ECOFAC programme, as a result of lack of funding. The State Party notes that in this period, it has tried to continue to ensure basic patrolling activities, mobilising important funding from the Government Forest Fund and the World Heritage Fund. However, activities have been seriously hampered by the continued instability and insecurity.

The continued tensions in the region are a result of the close proximity of the property to two major conflict zones: south-eastern Chad, and the Darfur region of Sudan. These conflicts and the associated displaced peoples cross the international borders with the CAR have introduced arms into the region, facilitating and encouraging poaching. The situation worsened further with the outbreak in 2006 of a rebellion in the north east of CAR, which led to the pillage of Gordil patrol base at the northern border of the property and progressively

affected the entire property. The instability led to the suspension of anti-poaching patrols and other enforcement activities.

While the State Party has been able to conduct limited patrols in the south-eastern sector of the park to control the movement of cattle from southern Chad and reduce illegal fishing, poaching of other wildlife is widespread in particular in the northern section of the property. In addition, the hunting reserves to the south of the park which were not affected by the rebellion are reported to have been invaded by around 200 poachers coming from Sudan. An important concentration of elephants displaced by the conflict in the northern section of the property was found in these hunting zones but according to the professional hunters operating in the area, heavily armed poachers from Sudan killed at least 200 elephants. The 2005 survey estimated the remaining elephant population in northern CAR at merely 500 animals. No additional information on the status of wildlife and other values for which the property was inscribed were provided.

The recent start of the IV phase of the ECOFAC programme provides some hope that the situation might improve in the near future. However, without an improvement in the security situation, it seems doubtful that poaching in and around the property can be brought under control. The World Heritage Centre was informed by the State Party that ECOFAC is for the moment re-starting its activities in the hunting areas to the south of the property, but that the north of the property remains inaccessible due to the insecurity. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note that until a mission can take place it is unclear if the loss of integrity of the property has caused a permanent loss of its outstanding universal value and also whether rehabilitation is still possible if poaching can be stopped.

With no clear perspectives on an improvement in the security situation any time soon, it seems unlikely that the requested monitoring mission can be organised in the near future.

In the meantime it is proposed that a mission be conducted to meet the State Party, staff of the ECOFAC programme and other stakeholders outside the property in a more secure location, such as Bangui, to discuss the situation in the property and to identify preliminary corrective measures necessary to avoid the loss of the outstanding universal value of the property. Potential donors should also be invited to this meeting.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.1**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Expresses its utmost concern about the security situation in northern Central African Republic and its impact on the property, in particular the continued large scale poaching of wildlife, which could soon lead to the loss of the outstanding universal value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List;*
4. *Regrets that the planned joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission had to be postponed again due to the insecurity;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to invite the joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN reactive monitoring mission, as soon as the security situation allows, to assess the impact on the outstanding universal value of the property and the potential for its rehabilitation and to develop an emergency action plan for the property, including the corrective measures, with all concerned stakeholders;*

6. *Encourages the State Party, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, IUCN, the ECOFAC programme and other relevant stakeholders, to hold a workshop to discuss a strategy to improve the security of the property and protection of its values prior to the mission, with funding from the World Heritage Fund;*
7. *Urges the State Party to take all measures possible to halt poaching in the property and, in collaboration with the States Parties of Chad and Sudan, to consider developing transboundary cooperation to address this issue;*
8. *Also calls upon the international community to further support urgent conservation measures to prevent the property from losing its outstanding universal value ;*
9. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
10. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
11. ***Decides to retain Manovo-Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

2. Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*

3. Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea) (N 155 bis)

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*

Note : the following reports on the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are to be read in conjunction with Item 31 of the present document, page 86

4. Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 63)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

Criteria

(vii) (viii) (x)

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

1994

Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32).

Threats requiring the property to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Refugee impact ;
- b) Presence of armed militia and settlers in irregular situation inside the property ;
- c) Increased poaching, deforestation, pressure of fishing villages inside the Park.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The desired state of conservation has not yet been specified.

Identified corrective measures

The following corrective measures have been identified by the 2006 World Heritage Centre mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) :

- a) Establish a « Committee to Save Virunga » (CSV) which will help address the threats to the property;
- b) Reduce significantly the number of military positions inside the property, and ensure a close follow up of illegal activity by military personnel ;
- c) Immediate closure and removal of the Nyaleke army reunification and training camp, as decided by the Minister of Defence;
- d) Continue the efforts to evacuate in a peaceful and integrated way all illegal occupants in the property, accompanied by appropriate measures to assist the reintegration of the populations in their region of origin;
- e) Strengthen cooperation between the managing body of the Park, ICCN, and its partners by developing a joint plan for all interventions in the Park, with clear responsibilities and an implementation plan;
- f) Develop a strategy to share any profits, such as from tourism related to gorillas, with the local communities in order to improve relations;

- g) Strengthen law enforcement in the property, concentrating on priority areas and reinvigorating Park staff. Also propose specialised training of this staff to improve efficiency.
- h) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures

No timetable has been adopted to date.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.4; 30 COM 7A.7; 31 COM 7A.4

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property : USD 64,000 for equipment and staff salaries.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property : First phase of the programme financed by the UNF and Belgium for the conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties (« DRC Programme »). (2001–2005) : approximately USD 900,000. Current phase (2005–2008) : USD 300,000. In January 2007, support granted by the rapid response facility (USD 30,000).

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2006 : World Heritage Centre monitoring missions; 2007 : World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission in the framework of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism. Several World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of the project.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict, insecurity and political instability ;
- b) Poaching by armed military groups ;
- c) Encroachment;
- d) Extension of illegal fishing areas ;
- e) Deforestation and cattle grazing.

Current conservation problems

On 1 February 2008, a concise report on the state of conservation of the five World Heritage properties in the DRC was submitted by the State Party. The report contained a brief overview of ongoing management operations but little information on the implementation of corrective measures and the implementation of emergency activities developed by the reinforced monitoring mission.

The report indicates the occupation of the gorilla sector by General Nkunda's rebels that have established a management authority parallel to that of the ICCN. Since 2 September 2007, agents of the ICCN, who had been disarmed by the rebel troops of Laurent Nkunda, no longer have access to the sectors of Jomba and Bikenge of the Park, without the protection of the United Nations Organization Mission to the Congo (MONUC), for fear of being targeted.

During the last session, the World Heritage Centre informed the Committee of the slaughter, on 10 June 2006, of a gorilla of the Kabirizi family. In July 2007, five gorillas, belonging to the Rugendo family, were slaughtered. At the request of the State Party and in the framework of the implementation of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism, a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission visited the property from 11 to 22 August 2007 to clarify the

circumstances concerning the slaughter and to evaluate the state of conservation of the property. The mission, organized in cooperation with MONUC and UNEP, was able to meet with the Directorate General of the ICCN management authority, Park staff (officers and guards), representatives of conservation NGOs, the military command and judiciary authorities. The mission was also received by the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations to the RDC, the President of the National Assembly and the Minister for the Environment.

The information gathered by the mission indicates that opposition by a certain number of persons to the dismantlement of a charring network operating inside the property since 2001 and providing charcoal for the Goma market, is at the origin of the slaughter of the gorillas. The mission concluded that it concerned a well-organized network that allowed certain ICCN guards and staff, military and customary chiefs, to benefit both from a somewhat fragile political situation and the inability of the ICCN Directorate General to fully exercise its authority to halt illegal production of charcoal within the Park. Major management problems, in particular with regard to the management of human resources, would also have contributed to the disfunctionment of ICCN in the face of this problem. The mission noted that the main degradation issues of the property, raised by the 2005 mission, remain current and regretted that the proposed corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee had not been implemented.

The mission considered that the outstanding universal value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List is still present but that it is increasingly threatened, and the integrity greatly affected. General insecurity, lack of governance concerning conservation and management of natural resources and increasing threats, seriously affecting the property and its integrity, could lead to irreversible impacts on it. It is important that the State Party ensure the monitoring of the state of the threatened species, the extent of the area of the regions encroached upon and deforestation and the level of poaching.

The reinforced monitoring mission concluded that emergency measures were required to avoid the irreversible loss of the outstanding universal value. Apart from urgent action, it also developed recommendations for the institutional reinforcement of the ICCN, improvement in the management of the property and strengthening of cooperation with the local populations. It also identified a lack of communication with the neighbouring communities around the property and noted that without support from local stake holders, it would be difficult to ensure the protection and conservation of the outstanding universal value and the integrity of the property.

The report of the reinforced monitoring mission was transmitted to the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, the Congolese authorities and members of the Committee. It is available at the following Internet address: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2008> .

The speedy investigation carried out by the State Party following the mission confirmed the implication of ICCN agents; the ICCN Provincial Director and officers have been arrested. On 27 July 2007, the ICCN Management Committee entrusted the implementation of certain recommendations proposed by the August 2007 mission to the Chief of the Northern Sector of the property, in particular the reorganization of surveillance in the Mikeno sector, the reorganization of the work of ICCN staff, the pursuance of investigations with local authorities concerning the slaughter of gorillas, the strengthening of cooperation between the State services and the sector, the development of dialogue between stake holders and the establishment of a new tourist system. With support from NGO partners, an emergency plan was developed to secure the gorillas in the Mikeno sector, a Crisis Committee was set up, permanent monitoring of gorillas in the sector, awareness raising of local populations and the organization of mixed patrols.

Since the mission and despite a continuing tense security situation, the implementation of corrective measures, adopted by the Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) has progressed:

- a) *Establish a « Committee to Save Virunga » (CSV) which will help address the threats to the property;*

The CSV, comprising representatives of various administrative institutions in the Province, ICCN, MONUC and conservation NGOs, has been operational since May 2007. With political support from the Province, it has already initiated actions to mitigate certain conflicts linked to management, in particular fishery management at Lake Edward and the issue of awareness raising of the military, often involved in illegal fishing activities.

- b) *Reduce significantly the number of military positions inside the property, and ensure a close follow up of illegal activity by military personnel ;*

To date, occupation of the Park by different armed groups destroying the natural resources, on the increase since recent events, remains the key problem for the conservation of the property. At the Conference for Peace and Development of the two Kivus at end-January 2008, an Act of Commitment was signed by the different armed groups. In particular, it provided for the dismantlement of all national and foreign armed groups present in the region. This operation has begun, but there is no set timetable for its execution.

- c) *Immediate closure and removal of the Nyaleke army reunification and training camp, as decided by the Minister of Defence ;*

Despite the assurances given by the Ministry of Defence, no progress has been accomplished in this regard. The stumbling block remains the funding, estimated at USD 316,318 for the relocation of the camp outside the perimeter of the property.

- d) *Continue the efforts to evacuate in a peaceful and integrated way all illegal occupants in the property, accompanied by appropriate measures to assist the reintegration of the populations in their region of origin;*

Survey operations of illegally established populations inside the property and awareness raising actions for these populations have begun again and are giving encouraging results. On the western side of Lake Edward, more than 5,400 households are already willing to be evacuated and eleven sites have been identified to welcome them. With regard to encroachment in the region of Kiorwirwe, controlled by the rebel troops of Nkunda, insecurity problems have hindered this activity.

Moreover, following information that new camps for displaced persons due to the war were installed inside the Park, the World Heritage Centre addressed a letter to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 8 January 2008, requesting the relocation of these camps outside the boundaries of the Park. In response, the High Commissioner informed that an alternative site had been identified and that the transfer of the 4,000 displaced persons had been accomplished.

- e) *Strengthen cooperation between the managing body of the Park, ICCN, and its partners by developing a joint plan for all interventions in the Park, with clear responsibilities and an implementation plan;*

The joint strategic plan, developed by ICCN and its partners has finally been transformed into an emergency plan for the gorilla sector, as mentioned above. The NGO partners have managed to assemble « joint funds » to finance this emergency plan.

- f) *Develop a strategy to share any profits, such as from tourism related to gorillas, with the local communities in order to improve relations;*

Tourism is insignificant in the Park due to the insecurity situation. However, ICCN has recognized the issue of the equal share of profits from observation tourism. A first step taken was the termination notice for the contract with a private company that had tourism monopoly related to gorillas.

- g) *Strengthen law enforcement in the property, concentrating on priority areas ;*

The implementation of the emergency plan provides for a permanent surveillance of the gorilla sector to minimise the risk of slaughter. Throughout August, six patrols, under canvas, were carried out. Unfortunately, as of September, this programme was greatly disturbed by the disarmament of the guards by Nkunda's men. Patrols in the remainder of the Park are also greatly disturbed due to insecurity.

h) *Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the World Heritage properties of the DRC ;*

A trust fund for the DRC protected areas is being established and is presented in the general report on the state of conservation of properties in the DRC (Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A, item 31).

An important project for the transboundary management of Greater Virunga (Uganda, Rwanda, DRC) is under preparation, by the European Union with support from IUCN. Major funding from the European Union and the French Global Environmental (FFEM) is foreseen.

Draft Decision : 32 COM 7A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.4**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Regrets that, despite the peace efforts undertaken by the State Party in the eastern part of the country, and the Peace Conference, permanent insecurity inside and around the property continues to hinder conservation activities ;*
4. *Notes with concern the results and conclusions of the reinforced monitoring mission of August 2007 indicating that the outstanding universal value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List is becoming increasingly threatened and that these accumulating threats could have an irreversible impact on the property and its integrity ;*
5. *Urges the State Party, in cooperation with MONUC, to implement the Act of Commitment adopted on 23 January 2008 at the end of the Goma Peace and Development Conference in the two Kivus that provides for the disarmament of all armed national and foreign groups in this region ;*
6. *Requests the State Party to implement the urgent actions recommended by the reinforced monitoring mission of August 2007, in particular :*
 - a) *Halt all production of charcoal inside the property and promote alternative sources of energy;*
 - b) *Withdraw the non-strategic military postings;*
 - c) *Reinforce the role of MONUC to improve security in the property and its periphery;*
 - d) *Ensure transparent management of income resulting from tourism and develop and implement a profit-sharing strategy with local communities;*
 - e) *Strengthen communication activities and awareness raising for the authorities concerned and local populations;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to implement the other recommendations of the reinforced monitoring mission of August 2007, in particular the recommendations for*

the institutional strengthening of the management authority for the protected areas, ICCN, as well as the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius 2006);

8. ***Reiterates** its request for the immediate closure of the Nyaleke army training and reunification camp inside the property as well as the immediate withdrawal of all mining concessions that were granted inside the property ;*
9. ***Further requests** the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity as well as a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;*
10. ***Requests moreover** the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the disarmament of the armed groups inside the property and information on monitoring the state of the threatened species, the extent of encroachment and deforestation in the region, and the level of poaching, as well as progress accomplished in the implementation of the recommendations of the reinforced monitoring mission and the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;*
11. ***Decides** to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;*
12. ***Also decides to retain Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

5. Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 137)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980

Criteria

(x)

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

1997

Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32).

Threats requiring the property to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Refugee impact ;
- b) Presence of armed militia and settlers in irregular situation at the property ;
- c) Increased poaching ;
- d) Deforestation.

Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The desired state of conservation has not yet been specified.

Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were recommended by the 2006 UNESCO mission and approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) :

- a) Establish a strategy for the evacuation of all the armed groups in the property. The strategy should also take into consideration the closing of all illegal mining operations inside the property. ;
- b) Substantially strengthen the presence of ICCN Park guards in the lowland sector of the Park ;
- c) Reclaim, as soon as the security situation allows, the farms situated in the ecologically important corridor between the lowland and highland sectors ;
- d) Strengthen cooperation between ICCN and its partners by developing a joint plan for all interventions in the Park ;
- e) Conduct, as soon as the security situation allows, a survey of flagship species present in the lowland sector of the Park, in particular gorilla and other primates ;
- f) Strengthen law enforcement in the property thereby gradually increasing the area of the Park covered by guard patrols ;
- g) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures

To date, no timetable has been decided upon.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.4 ; 30 COM 7A.6; 31 COM 7A.5

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 64,848 for equipment and staff salaries

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: First phase of the programme financed by the UNF and Belgium for the conservation of DRC World Heritage properties (« DRC Programme), (2001-2005) : approximately USD 300,000. Current phase (2005-2008) : USD 300,000.

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2006 : UNESCO Missions; Several UNESCO missions in the framework of this project.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict, insecurity and political instability;
- b) Poaching by armed military groups;
- c) Encroachment, in particular in the corridor between the highlands and lowlands;
- d) Illegal mining and deforestation.

Current conservation problems

On 1 February 2008, a concise report on the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party. The report gives a brief overview of the ongoing management operations but little information on the implementation of the corrective measures.

In December 2007, the World Heritage Centre received from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) the final version of its report on preliminary work for the inventory of flagship species of the lowland sector of the Park. This sector has been inaccessible because of insecurity for most of the time since the beginning of hostilities in 1996. The lowlands alone contain the most important population of flagship species of the property. A survey carried out in 1994, just before the beginning of the conflict, estimated the number of Grauer gorilla at 6 670 individuals, e.g. 75% of the total population of that sub-species endemic to the DRC.

The WCS report analyses the data gathered between 2004 and 2007 in 20% of the lowland area. At the outset, work was planned to cover the whole sector but due to problems of insecurity, this was not possible. Although partial, these results provide an initial idea of the situation in this sector since the beginning of the conflict in 1996. The report contains a first estimate of the size of the populations of large fauna and analyses the impact of human activities, in particular hunting and mining. The main results of this work are summarized here below:

- The sector still provides shelter for important populations of gorilla and chimpanzee. The gorilla population in the Itebero and Nzovu Sectors has decreased by 25% since the beginning of the conflict. The analyses are less clear as regards the chimpanzee population.
- No sign of elephants was found the last signs observed in Nzovu date back to 2004. With a population before hostilities estimated at several thousand animals, it appears today that the elephant has almost disappeared.
- The presence of cephalopoda, buffalo, sitatunga, bongo, wild pig and six species of primate was confirmed.
- Signs of hunting activities were observed throughout the area inventoried.
- The presence of seven villages in the sectors visited in the Park was documented. The Rwanda rebels (FDLR) have also established their Headquarters in the Park, but visits to these areas were not possible.
- Indications of artisanal mining were observed in all the inventoried sectors. The presence of mining sites is often associated with increased poaching activities. The report also indicates that among the mining sites evacuated by the Park authorities in 2005 at Itebero, most are newly occupied.

The results of the study remain partial and it is impossible to present to conclude that they are representative for the whole lowland sector, as the areas occupied by numerous armed bands could not be visited. Nevertheless, the study appears to confirm the catastrophic impact of the war on the elephant population. However, other species still seem to be present, although their numbers have been seriously reduced.

The World Heritage Centre was also informed of a field mission by the Environment Minister, from 8 to 11 March 2008. During this mission, the Minister was able to discuss the illegal exploitation of mining resources in the property as well as the illegal occupation of the ecological corridor between the highland and the lowland sectors with the different politico-administrative and military authorities of the Province. The Minister also raised the question of insecurity at the property and the problems of the exploitation of certain natural resources by the armed Forces.

The main obstacle to the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) remains the insecurity in the region that renders a large part of the property practically inaccessible to the Park guards. To date, the following progress has been noted :

a) *Establish a strategy to evacuate all armed groups from the property*

The issue of the presence of armed bands remains the key problem for the conservation of the property. A slight improvement of the situation is to be noted with the reintegration into the army of two rebel military groups that were operating inside the property. To date, no progress has been made with regard to the issue of disarmament of the Rwanda rebel army that operates inside the Park. However, the « Act of Engagement » signed on 23 January 2008 at the end of the Goma Peace and Development Conference in the two Kivu (see also the report on Virunga National Park) foresees the disarmament of national and foreign armed groups remaining in the region.

b) *Substantially strengthen the presence of ICCN guards in the lowland sector. Strengthen law enforcement in the Park, thereby gradually increasing the area covered by guard patrols inside the Park.*

The reopening in 2007 of the Itebero and Nzovu stations in the lowland sector of the Park is beginning to have an impact in the field. The slow return of security in these areas of the Park has allowed the organization of mixed patrols (guards, military and MONUC). From 10% in 2005, the area covered by the patrols in certain parts of the Park has increased to more than 30% in 2007.

c) *Reclaim possession of the farms occupying the corridor and determine its boundaries.*

The question of the corridor still remains unsolved. Lobbying activities to raise awareness of the political and administrative authorities in the Province, as well as the population regarding this issue continue. The field visit of the Environment Minister also provided the opportunity to raise the problem in the presence of the Minister for Land Affairs and the Senior Officer of the Auditorat during meetings with the political and administrative authorities of South Kivu.

d) *Strengthen cooperation between ICCN and its partners in the development of a joint plan for all interventions in the Park, with clearly established responsibilities and benchmarks.*

The preparation of an operational plan by the local Coordination Committee of the property was finalised. It is regularly updated in accordance with the situation at site. The development of a management plan has begun.

e) *Conduct, as soon as security conditions allow, a study of flagship species in the lowland sector of the Park, in particular the gorilla and other primates;*

As mentioned above, the report on the partial inventory of the sector in the areas of Nzovu and Itebero is available. Nevertheless, it remains urgent to complete this essential work for the remainder of the lowland sector, as soon as security conditions permit.

f) *Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties.*

A trust fund for the DRC protected areas is being established and will be presented in the general report on the state of conservation of the DRC properties (Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A, item 31).

The issue of mining concessions attributed by the Ministry of Mines is not yet solved.

Developments with regard to the refurbishing of the RN3 Kisangani – Bukavu road that crosses the highland sector of the Park are to be noted. At the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Centre presented additional information on the Environmental Impact Study carried out by the German Cooperation (GTZ) at the request of the European Union (EU) and submitted on 11 June 2007. The

World Heritage Centre and IUCN considered that this study did not dispel the concerns relating to the potential impact of the refurbishing project on the integrity of the property, in particular increased deforestation and mining and wild meat traffic. Moreover, an important increase in traffic on the part that crosses the property also crosses the habitat of gorilla populations and could affect their behaviour. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN had considered that the measures proposed to lessen the impact of the road in the Park were insufficient and the World Heritage Committee had requested the State Party to include in the final report clear proposals on the mitigation measures envisaged to reduce the direct and indirect impacts. The World Heritage Centre was informed that the EU and GTZ had accepted to review the study and consult experts of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. This additional study is underway.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.5**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes with concern the results of the preliminary inventory for the lowland sector, indicating the quasi-disappearance of the elephant, a 25% reduction in the gorilla population, continued poaching and artisanal mining operations in all the areas visited, as well as militia presence ;*
4. *Requests the State Party, in consultation with ICCN, the management body for the protected areas, to continue with the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), in close cooperation with the local communities surrounding the property ;*
5. *Urges the State Party, in cooperation with MONUC, to implement the Act of Engagement adopted on 23 January 2008 following the Goma Peace and Development Conference in the two Kivu that foresees the disarmament of all national and foreign armed groups in this region ;*
6. *Reiterates its request for the immediate withdrawal of all mining concessions that have been granted inside the property;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre the revised version of the Environmental Impact Study concerning the refurbishment of the RN3 road containing new proposals on mitigation measures, before taking a final decision with regard to the project, in conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value, including conditions of integrity, as well as a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;*
9. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, before **1 February 2009** a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, including an update on the disarmament of armed groups inside the property, the road refurbishing project, as well as progress achieved in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;*

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

6. Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 136)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1980

Criteria

(vii) (x)

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

1997; previously inscribed between 1984 and 1992

Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32)

Threats requiring the property to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Increased poaching ;
- b) Pressure linked to the civil war, thereby threatening the emblematic species of the property.

Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The desired state of conservation has not yet been specified.

Identified corrective measures

The following corrective measures were recommended by the 2006 World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission and approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006) :

- a) Ensure the protection of the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan within and adjacent to the property ;
- b) Improve the efficiency of the military brigade posted around the property to secure the Park and adjacent hunting areas by replacing the current brigade by a brigade that went through the reunification and retraining programme and by ensuring they are adequately equipped ;
- c) Ensure that the guard force of the protected area authority (ICCN) is properly equipped and, in particular, has adequate arms and ammunition ;
- d) Undertake, in cooperation with the United Nations Organization Mission to the DRC (MONUC), a disarmament campaign within the communities living around the property, whilst at the same time improving the security situation in the region ;
- e) Reinforce cooperation with the Government of Sudan to better control incursions of armed groups into the DRC and the property ;

- f) Continue and strengthen anti-poaching efforts, in particular in the southern sector of the Park where the presence of Northern white rhino was confirmed by the 2006 survey ;
- g) Strengthen efforts to improve relations with local communities surrounding the Park, particularly through developing and implementing a community conservation programme ;
- h) Take urgent measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the Garamba Park guard force ;
- i) Reinstate detailed monitoring of the rhino population in the property through a specialized monitoring team, building on the know-how available in ICCN and the African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) ;
- j) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties, to which the Government of the DRC committed to contribute at the 2004 UNESCO Conference on Heritage in Danger in the DRC.

Timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures

To date, no timetable has been decided upon.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 15A.3; 30 COM 7A.4; 31 COM 7A.6

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 157,845 for equipment and Park staff salaries.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property : First phase of the Programme financed by the United Nations Foundation and Belgium ("DRC Programme") (2001-2005), approximately USD 400,000; (2005-2008): USD 600,000. Additional funding of USD 30,000, through the rapid reactive monitoring mechanism was allocated for the training of Park guards.

Previous monitoring missions

2006 : World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission. Several UNESCO missions in the framework of the DRC Programme.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict and political instability;
- b) Poaching by nationals and Sudanese;
- c) Ill-adapted management capacities.

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2008, a concise report on the state of conservation of the five World Heritage properties of the DRC was submitted by the State Party. The report contained some information on the situation of the fauna but little information on the implementation of the corrective measures.

On 17 and 18 September 2007, a workshop on Survival Strategies for Northern White Rhino was organized in Kinshasa by the management authority, in close cooperation with the African Parks Foundation (APF), the World Heritage Centre and the African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) of IUCN. In preparing for the meeting, the AfRSG analysed the status and distribution of the northern white rhino as well as the viability of the existing population. The study was based on an estimate of the population of the last rhino – four individuals,

comprising two males and two females – in Garamba National Park (GNP). The results of the scientific simulations show that the only chance of survival for the sub-species would be the guarantee of total protection for at least 50 years and that no additional individual is lost during this period, concluding that the Northern white rhino is in imminent danger of extinction. The loss of one single additional animal would be catastrophic. However, the chance of survival of the population would increase significantly if one or two additional females were to be introduced. The possibility of approaching the Czech Republic, the only country possessing two young females in captivity, has been evoked.

Based on data prepared by the AfRSG, the workshop experts discussed the different options to preserve the last rhinoceros of the property and concluded that only the capture and transfer to an appropriate and secure place, beyond the Congolese borders of the last rhinos presented sufficient guarantee to perpetuate this sub-species. The possibility of obtaining cross-breeding with the two females of the Dvur Kralove Zoo (Czech Republic) could much improve the chances of survival of the sub-species. This conclusion was supported by the experts and the ICCN General Directorate.

The recommendations of the workshop were communicated by ICCN to the Presidency of the Republic of the DRC in order to obtain authorization to relocate the rhinoceros beyond the borders of the DRC. In a letter dated February 2008, the Presidency acknowledged the need to deploy urgent safeguarding measures but indicated the wish for the relocation of the last rhino to be within the Congolese territory. The transfer beyond the national frontiers should only be envisaged in the event of a failure of all other alternatives. It requested ICCN to send a report substantiating the lack of serious alternatives to transfer beyond the Congolese frontiers. The report was transmitted to the Presidency last March.

The State Party has, furthermore, continued its efforts to implement an emergency plan to regain control of the property and implement the corrective measures. Unfortunately, security conditions continue to hinder these efforts. Occupation of the northern part of the Azande hunting area by Ugandan rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the presence of the Mbororo in its periphery, raise serious problems. Moreover, skirmishes between Park staff and armed groups are regularly reported. Nevertheless, the implementation of the corrective measures has progressed:

a) *Ensure the protection of the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan within and adjacent to the property ;*

Armed groups continue to circulate between Sudan and the DRC. The constant presence of Ugandan rebels of the LRA continues to render the region insecure. A peace agreement is still being negotiated between the LRA and Uganda, but these efforts have brought no results so far.

As was mentioned in the report on the Okapi Wildlife Reserve, the World Heritage Centre is in contact with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) concerning the organization, at the beginning of 2009, of a training programme on illicit traffic of fauna for the staff of some frontier posts.

b) *Improve the efficiency of the military brigade posted around the property to secure the Park and adjacent hunting areas by replacing the current brigade by a brigade that went through the reunification and retraining programme and by ensuring they are adequately equipped ;*

As was mentioned in the 2007 report, the military brigade stationed around the property was withdrawn following serious incidents involving some members of this brigade. ICCN has also contacted the military authorities for the evacuation of the military from the Park.

c) *Undertake, in cooperation with the MONUC (United Nations Organization Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo), a disarmament campaign within the communities living around the property, whilst at the same time improving the security situation in the region ;*

Little progress has been accomplished in the implementation of this recommendation. However, the dismantlement of an artisanal arms manufacture in the hunting area of Gangala Na Bodio deserves mention.

A MONUC brigade is now stationed at Dungu. It will no doubt facilitate the disarmament campaigns. Just such a campaign was carried out on the occasion of the visit of the Governor to the property.

d) Reinforce cooperation with the Government of Sudan to better control incursions of armed groups into the DRC and the property ;

ICCN and the park authorities initiated discussions with their Sudanese counterparts with the objective of establishing a basis for transboundary cooperation between the two countries to strengthen the means of combating poaching originating from Sudan. Contacts with Sudan were facilitated by two NGOs : the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

e) Ensure that the ICCN guard force is properly equipped and, in particular, has adequate arms and ammunition ;

Since the last session of the Committee, equipment has been acquired for the Congolese army (FARDC). Moreover, APF has procured outfits and bivouac equipment that will allow the guards to work in optimal conditions for a period of at least three years.

f) Take urgent measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the Garamba Park guard force ; and

g) Continue and strengthen anti-poaching efforts, in particular in the southern sector of the Park where the presence of northern white rhino was confirmed by the 2006 survey ;

Despite a reduced number of men physically adapted to carry out patrols, a high level of presence was able to be maintained in the Park. An average of 1,500 man/day patrols per month was carried out. Following the retirement of 37 guards, a recruitment plan and a training programme were developed to strengthen the surveillance team, with an additional number of 50 to 60 guards. Recruitment began end-December 2007 and training began end-January 2008. Guards were also trained in intelligence techniques. Numerous intelligence missions are carried out regularly, including outside of the Park, to identify poaching threats. These missions assist in strengthening cooperation with the political and administrative authorities and in due course obtain information on poachers as well as other illegal activities. These missions have led to 27 arrests of poachers in 2007. The Park is also subject to constant aerial surveillance and a new ULM aircraft was purchased for surveillance purposes.

h) Strengthen efforts to improve relations with local communities surrounding the Park, particularly through developing and implementing a community conservation programme ;

An updated agreement was signed between the custodian authorities and the Park authorities in July 2007, foreseeing financial support for the development of projects proposed by local associations in exchange for a commitment to support Park activities through awareness raising activities regarding conservation for the local population, and to provide monthly circumstantial reports on the state of the fauna, flora and anti-poaching activities in their respective areas.

The establishment of 17 Local Committees for Conservation and Development (LCCD) has also facilitated and strengthened cooperation between the Park and neighbouring populations. Thanks to this mechanism, the Park authorities manage to obtain crucial information on the movement of poachers.

The community conservation project prepared by the World Heritage Centre and the NGO Fauna and Flora International (FFI), with Italian funding, began to implement the conservation strategy developed for the property with UNESCO support, and which has already re-energized the work of the community conservation team present at the Park since

2006. Awareness raising missions were organised and the LCCD was trained to develop proposals for micro-projects to respond to the needs of the communities.

Local communities were also associated with the work in determining the Park boundaries and the hunting areas.

i) Reinstate detailed monitoring of the rhino population in the property through a specialized monitoring team, building on the know-how available in ICCN and AfRSG ;

The Research and Monitoring Unit presented a report on its activities during the September workshop. Despite important research efforts on the ground, with land and aerial inventories, no rhino were sighted since 2006. A new land and aerial inventory is ongoing with the participation of one of the best rhino trackers in the world. The results should be available before the 32nd session.

j) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties ;

A trust fund for the DRC protected areas is being established and is presented in the general report on the state of conservation of DRC properties (Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A).

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.6

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
- 2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.6**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
- 3. Expresses its utmost concern as regards the results of the workshop on Survival Strategies for the Northern White Rhino that indicates that the sub-species is in imminent danger of extinction and notes the conclusion of the experts that only the capture and transfer to an appropriate and secure place, beyond the Congolese borders, presents sufficient guarantees for the survival of this sub-species ;*
- 4. Urges the State Party to authorize the translocation of the Northern white rhino of Garamba National Park, ex situ, to a safe place, to guarantee the survival of the sub-species and with the objective of building up the population in situ as soon as the situation permits and requests the State Party of the Czech Republic to facilitate the participation of the Dvur Kralove Zoo in this programme;*
- 5. Also requests the State Party, in consultation with ICCN, the management body for the protected areas, to continue the implementation of the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);*
- 6. Calls upon MONUC (United Nations Organization Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo) to cooperate with the Park authorities in the framework of its deployment around the property and to support the conservation of the property, in particular as regards disarmament;*
- 7. Further requests the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value, including conditions of integrity, as well as a proposal for the desired state of*

conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;

8. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property, and in particular on the situation regarding the requested translocation of the last northern white rhino to a secure place, as well as progress accomplished in the implementation of the corrective measures adopted, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
9. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;
10. Also decides to retain **Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

7. Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 280)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1984

Criteria

(vii) (ix)

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

1999

Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32)

Threats requiring the property to be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Impact due to conflict ;
- b) Increased poaching and illegal encroachment.

Desired state of conservation for removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The desired state of conservation has not yet specified.

Identified corrective measures

The following corrective measures have been identified by the World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission in 2007 and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) :

- a) Urgent organization of a mixed anti-poaching operation between the management authority (ICCN) and the Congolese army (FARDC) in cooperation with the United Nations Mission (MONUC) in the most threatened areas;
- b) Creation of a permanent consultation mechanism between the provincial political, administrative and military authorities of the four provinces covered by the property in

order to address in a coordinated way, the elimination of illegal activities, specifically large-scale poaching, in the Park ;

- c) Implement the recently developed anti-poaching strategy;
- d) Initiate a process to resolve the conflict concerning the use of Park resources through a participatory approach ;
- e) Develop and implement a strategy to minimize and mitigate the impacts of the villages located within the property ;
- f) Create an ecological corridor between the two sectors of the property in the framework of a development plan for the property;
- g) Establish a special fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties.

Timetable for the implementation of the corrective measures

To date, no timetable has been decided upon.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.4; 30 COM 7A.5 ; 31 COM 7A.7

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property : USD 155,000 for project planning, training of guards and infrastructures (USD 85,000) and for the implementation of the Security Plan for the Park and its surroundings against armed poachers (USD 70,000).

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property : First phase of the programme financed by the UNF and Belgium for the conservation of DRC World Heritage properties (« DRC Programme ») (2001-2005): approximately USD 320,000. Present phase: (2005-2008) limited funding from UNF.

Previous monitoring missions

2007 : World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Armed conflict, insecurity, and political instability;
- b) Poaching by the army and armed groups;
- c) Conflicts with local communities concerning Park boundaries;
- d) Impact on villages located within the property.

Current conservation problems

On 1 February 2008 a concise report on the state of conservation of the five World Heritage properties in the DRC was submitted by the State Party. The report provided a summary outline of the ongoing management operations but little information on the implementation of the corrective measures. It mentions a reestablishment of the elephant population, a greater visibility of the bonobos and abundant populations of ungulates, but gives no precise details on the population of these species. Furthermore, the State Party indicates major poaching of the wild pig, roan antelope, crocodile and primates but with no specific numbers. The Park authorities also reported on the slaughter of two elephants by the army in December 2007. The persons responsible for this slaughter were brought to justice thanks to strong cooperation between ICCN, WWF and the local police force.

Since the 2007 mission, the State Party with support from its partners, began the implementation of the corrective measures. This was facilitated by the launching of the programme for the *Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa* (ECOFAC) funded by the European Union that supports the management authority (ICCN) in the establishment of the management of the property, staff capacity building and community conservation. Moreover, the Park has received support from the World Heritage Fund of USD 70,000 for a security project for the property and its surroundings to combat commercial armed poaching. The project « SOS Elephants » implemented successfully in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve has greatly inspired the Park authorities.

Following progress can be noted in the implementation of the corrective measures:

- a) *Urgent organization of a mixed anti-poaching operation between the management authority (ICCN) and the Congolese army (FARDC) in cooperation with the United Nations Mission (MONUC) in the most threatened areas;*

The mixed operation was planned in the framework of the security plan and began in April 2007 with investigative activities to assist the Park authorities to obtain the maximum information concerning the poaching networks established in the property. Once the area(s) occupied by the armed poachers are identified, agreement will be reached with the FARDC to carry out targeted and one-off operations. The identification of the members of the mixed team (25 ICCN guards and 25 FARDC) is ongoing and reconnaissance missions have already been carried out. The Park authorities have also established contacts with MONUC to exchange information and evaluate the possibility of MONUC involvement in the operation.

- b) *Creation of a permanent consultation mechanism between the provincial political, administrative and military authorities of the four provinces covered by the property in order to address in a coordinated way, the elimination of illegal activities, specifically large-scale poaching, in the Park.*

With support of MONUC, ICCN and its partners in the field have organized an important awareness raising mission in the provinces. Under the aegis of the Minister of State for Territorial Administration and Decentralization, a tripartite meeting on security of the property was organized from 14 to 16 April 2008 in Bandundu Province with the participation of the Minister for Environment and Nature Conservation as well as the governors of Bandundu, Equateur and western Kasai. The objective of this tripartite meeting was to set up a permanent work and consultation framework for the immediate solution to the problems facing the property.

- c) *Implement the recently developed anti-poaching strategy*

The implementation of the anti-poaching strategy began with the implementation of the security project.

- d) *Begin a process to resolve the conflict concerning the use of Park resources through a participatory approach*

According to the Park authorities, the exactions imposed on the local populations by the poachers have little by little led the former to disassociate themselves from the latter and call for urgent intervention in order to escape the hold of the poachers. This new attitude on the part of the local populations has enabled the Park authorities to promote the creation of consultation committees between ICCN and the local authorities, as well as other platforms, to seek solutions to conflicts. ICCN envisages the extension of the current environmental education programme in these intervention areas oriented on sustainable management practices for natural resources. The promotion of alternative viable economic activities is also planned in order to slow down bad practice in the use of the natural resources.

- e) *Develop and implement a strategy to minimize and mitigate impacts on the villages located within the property*

No information has been provided as to progress accomplished in the implementation of this corrective measure.

- f) *Create an ecological corridor between the two sectors of the property in the framework of a development plan for the property*

No information has been provided as to the state of implementation of this corrective measure.

- g) *Establish a special fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties*

A trust fund for the DRC protected areas is being established and is presented in the general report on the state of conservation of the DRC properties (Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A, item 31).

Draft Decision : 32 COM 7A.7

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.7**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes with concern reports of continued poaching, in particular poaching of elephants, by the army;*
4. *Expresses its satisfaction that the State Party has begun the implementation of some of the corrective measures established by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), notably the organization, with support from the World Heritage Fund, of a mixed anti-poaching operation;*
5. *Requests the State Party, in cooperation with ICCN, the management body for the protected areas, to urgently pursue the implementation of the corrective measures, and to propose a timetable for their implementation ;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value, including the conditions of integrity, as well as a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and progress achieved in the implementation of all the corrective measures, with a proposal for a timetable for their implementation, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;*
8. *Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;*
9. *Also decides to maintain **Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)** on the List of World Heritage in Danger.*

8. Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (N 718)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1996

Criteria

(x)

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

1997

Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32)

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Impact of conflict: looting of infrastructure, poaching of elephants;
- b) Presence of gold mining sites inside the property.

Desired state of conservation required for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

No desired state of conservation has yet been established.

Corrective measures identified

The following corrective measures were identified by the 2006 UNESCO / IUCN mission and adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006):

- a) Ensure the immediate withdrawal of military personnel of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) army involved in poaching, ivory trafficking and illegal mining;
- b) Close down and prevent all illegal mining operations inside the property;
- c) Suspend the rehabilitation works on the RN4 national road crossing the property, to allow for a proper Environmental Impact Assessment and until proper measures to reduce its expected environmental impact are put in place;
- d) Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties;
- e) Establish permanent cooperation between the political and military authorities at provincial level, the United Nations Organization Mission in DRC (MONUC) and the authority responsible for the management of the property (ICCN) to eliminate illegal activities in and around the property;
- f) In cooperation with the Government of Uganda, stop the illegal trafficking of timber, minerals and ivory across the DRC/Uganda border in north-eastern DRC;
- g) Prepare a forest zoning plan for the forest areas adjacent to the property to protect it from negative impacts resulting from unsustainable forest exploitation;
- h) Legalize and scale-up the pilot system put in place by ICCN to regulate and monitor immigration as well as traffic on the RN4 road, including the establishment of a permit system with transit charges;
- i) Take measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the guard force and to improve its efficiency.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No timeframe was set so far.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.4; 30 COM 7A.8; 31 COM 7A.8

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 63,000 for preparation of nomination, guard training, camp construction and to combat illegal poaching in the property.

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: First phase of the UNF and Belgium funded programme for the Conservation of the DRC World Heritage properties ("DRC programme"). (2001–2005): approximately USD 250,000. Current phase (2005-2008): USD 300,000.

Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2006: UNESCO monitoring missions; several other UNESCO missions in the framework of the DRC programme.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Extensive poaching of large mammals, in particular elephants;
- b) Mining activities inside the property;
- c) Uncontrolled migration into the villages located within the property;
- d) Illegal timber exploitation in the Ituri forest, which might affect the property in the near future;
- e) Planned rehabilitation of the National Road RN4 crossing the property, for which no proper Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted.

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2008, a report of the state of conservation of the five DRC World Heritage properties was submitted by the State Party. The report provides a brief overview of on-going park management activities, but unfortunately does not provide detailed information on the implementation of the corrective measures.

In 2007, field work on an inventory of the entire property was completed. A final report is currently under preparation, which will be available before the 32nd session. A first summary of the preliminary results was received by the World Heritage Centre on 15 April 2008.

The study considers the distribution and frequency of large mammals as well as human activities in the property, evaluating the impact since the beginning of the conflict (1996-2006). The main results are summarized hereunder:

- a. All important flagship species, including elephant, okapi and chimpanzee and eleven other species of primate were found during the inventory. Most of the unique habitats, including the inselbergs with an endemic flora, are intact;
- b. The elephant population has been reduced by 48% since the 1995 census, with an estimated loss of 3,260 elephants to poaching. A detailed history of elephant poaching shows episodic periods of intense poaching over the decade of the conflict, with severe poaching during periods of conflict or instability;
- c. Populations of the endemic okapi have decreased by 43 %, with a loss of an estimated 2,000 animals;

- d. There are also serious population declines in the 5 species of duiker, from 26% to 59%, depending on the species;
- e. Evidence of human activities, in particular poaching, was found widely across the entire Reserve, but with significant lower incidence in the proposed integral protection zone;
- f. No recent evidence of elephant poaching was recorded, indicating that recent efforts of ICCN to curb poaching are successful;
- g. Small-scale mining was also recorded in several areas, but much of the evidence was old, suggesting that the campaign to remove the miners has been effective.

In conclusion, the results show that the populations of flagship species, the key motivation for the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, have been seriously reduced. Especially the results on okapi are very disturbing as, unlike elephants, they were not known to be targeted by armed poachers. Population trends of duikers are showing that current hunting pressure, including hunting by local people, is unsustainable.

The study clearly demonstrates that poaching has had a significant impact on the outstanding universal value of the property. However, as no key species were lost, a recovery of the outstanding universal value is possible if hunting and other pressure can be controlled. The final results will also provide an important input to develop a proposal for the Desired state of conservation required for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger.

With the security situation in the Okapi Wildlife Reserve much better than in the other properties situated in the eastern part of the DRC, following progress was achieved towards some of the set corrective measures:

- a) *Ensure the immediate withdrawal of military personnel of the DRC army involved in poaching, ivory trafficking and illegal mining:*

Reserve authorities have been able to further consolidate the situation, after the large scale anti-poaching operation organised in 2006 with assistance from the World Heritage Fund. The strengthened collaboration with military and administrative authorities and the organisation of joint operations with the military has proven its efficiency in combating armed poaching in the areas previously not under the control of ICCN. Park authorities estimate that they now control 95% of the total property. Current elephant poaching is reported to have decreased by 85 %.

- b) *Close down and prevent all illegal mining operations inside the property:*

All the illegal mines are now closed down and no new illegal mining operation inside the property was reported. The fact that 95% of the reserve is now under ICCN control has been critical to maintaining the closure of the mines. ICCN estimates that a strong involvement of the provincial authorities will be crucial to sustain these achievements. Therefore, the property's authorities are sensitizing the newly instated provincial authorities on the need to safeguard the integrity of the Reserve.

The issue of mining concessions attributed by the Ministry of mines so far has not been resolved and this issue will be reported on in the general report of the DRC properties, in document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A* (point 31).

- c) *Suspend the rehabilitation works on the RN4 national road crossing the property:*

The rehabilitation works on the RN4 restarted after a number of additional mitigating measures were agreed with ICCN. On 15 April 2008, the World Heritage Centre finally received a copy of the environmental management plan prepared in July 2007, after the rehabilitation works were suspended at its request. Unfortunately, additional mitigation measures have focussed almost exclusively on measures to limit and mitigate direct impact of the construction works, including measures for the benefit of local communities, but have

not targeted long term impacts of the road rehabilitation on the values of the property. Works are now completed and the road is open to traffic since April. The World Heritage Centre has received reports that since the reopening of the road, the rehabilitation of the road has led to an important increase in illegal exploitation of forest products in the vicinity of the Reserve, in particular timber and bush meat. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the environmental management plan is not sufficient to mitigate these long term impacts, in particular potential increased immigration into the Reserve, as well as increased trade in illegal forest products.

d) *Establish a trust fund for the rehabilitation of the DRC World Heritage properties:*

Efforts to create a trust fund are under way and are reported on in the general report of the DRC properties, in document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A* (point 31).

e) *Establish permanent cooperation between the political and military authorities at provincial level, MONUC and ICCN to eliminate illegal activities in and around the property:*

Although no formal permanent cooperation between ICCN and the political and military authorities has been established, the Reserve authority is pursuing its sensitization work towards military and political authorities at the provincial level and joint patrols have been organised with the military. There is no permanent cooperation with MONUC, which is less active in this region, but there are some sporadic contacts.

f) *In cooperation with the Government of Uganda, stop the illegal trafficking of timber, minerals and ivory across the DRC/Uganda border in north-eastern DRC:*

No progress could be made so far by the State Party.

The World Heritage Centre has continued its exchange with the secretariat of the Convention on Illegal Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). At its 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, member States to the *Convention* requested the CITES secretariat to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre to address illegal trade issues. The World Heritage Centre and CITES are now discussing to organise early 2009 a capacity building programme for targeted border post officials.

g) *Prepare a forest zoning plan for the forest areas adjacent to the property to protect it from negative impacts resulting from unsustainable forest exploitation:*

No progress has been made so far. Recent reports about the granting of a forest concession to the east of the Reserve demonstrate the urgency of this measure.

h) *Legalize and scale up the pilot system put in place by ICCN to regulate and monitor immigration as well as traffic on the RN4 road:*

No progress has been made. The current control system, which was introduced as a pilot, is still in place but should be made official as soon as possible. This measure will be critical to mitigate the impact of the road now that its rehabilitation is completed.

i) *Take measures to reinforce and reinvigorate the guard force and to improve its efficiency:*

An intelligence team has been trained and put in place within the entire property and this has improved the efficiency of patrols.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.8

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.8**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Notes with concern the preliminary results of the inventory, showing substantial reductions in the population of flagship species, including elephants and okapis, thus adversely impacting the outstanding universal value of the property;
4. Welcomes the progress achieved in regaining management control over the property and in addressing poaching and small-scale mining in the property;
5. Requests the State Party, in consultation with ICCN, to continue to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius 2006);
6. Regrets that the environmental management plan developed for the rehabilitation of the RN4 road crossing the property is not addressing the long-term impacts on the integrity of the property and that an important increase in illegal exploitation of forest products in the vicinity of the Reserve, in particular timber and bush meat has already been reported;
7. Urges the State Party to develop an additional environmental management plan for the RN4 to address the long term impacts, in particular to control increased immigration into the property and increasing wild meat trade and to provide three printed and electronic copies of it, as soon as it is ready, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Reiterates its request to revoke any mining concessions that might have been granted in the property;
9. Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission to the property after the high-level meeting is held in Kinshasa to assess its state of conservation and progress in the implementation of the corrective measures in view of establishing the Desired state of conservation for a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, update the corrective measures required and set a timeframe for their implementation;
10. Also reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property and progress in the implementation of the corrective measures as well as the requested additional environmental management plan for the RN4, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
12. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property;

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

9. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*

10. Air and Ténéré Natural Reserves (Niger) (N 573)

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*

11. Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 253)

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*

ASIA AND PACIFIC

12. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)

Years of inscription on the World Heritage List

1985

Criteria

(vii) (ix) (x)

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

1992

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Bodo insurgency resulting in destruction of Park infrastructure and depletion of forest habitat and wildlife populations.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

No desired state of conservation has yet been set.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Accelerate efforts to re-build Park infrastructure;
- b) Take prompt measures to fill vacant positions within the Park;
- c) Ensure timely release of funds to the Park, in compliance with the recent Supreme Court ruling; and
- d) Undertake a comprehensive wildlife survey in the Park, which could act as a future baseline for monitoring recovery of the property.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No specific timeframe has been set by the World Heritage Committee or the State Party.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.9; 30 COM 7A.13; 31 COM 7A.11

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 165,000 (for purchase of equipment, rehabilitation of infrastructure and community activities).

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: the property will benefit from the UNF funded World Heritage India programme. Implementation of field activities will start soon.

Previous monitoring missions:

1992 and 2002: IUCN missions; 2005: World Heritage Centre / IUCN mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Bodo insurgency 1988-2003;
- b) Forced evacuation of Park staff;
- c) Destruction of Park infrastructure;
- d) Poaching and logging;
- e) Illegal cultivation.

Current conservation issues

From 11 to 19 February 2008, a joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN monitoring mission visited the property, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007). A report on the state of conservation of the property was provided by the State Party on 29 January 2008, which was reviewed by the mission team.

The mission was able to visit the different parts of the property and held discussions with various stakeholders, including officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forest, the Forestry Department of the State of Assam and the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), park staff, scientists, national NGO representatives, local NGO representatives and members as well as inhabitants of local villages. The mission report is available online at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2008>.

The mission reviewed progress in the implementation of the corrective measures, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005):

a) *Accelerating efforts to re-build park infrastructure*

The mission acknowledged the important efforts made since the 2005 mission to re-build the park infrastructure and concluded that these can probably be completed during the next one to two years if the necessary funding is available.

b) *Filling of vacant positions within the park*

With more than 100 positions still vacant, the mission considered this recommendation not yet fully implemented and acknowledged the efforts by the park authorities and BTC to address this issue through the volunteer scheme it has set up in together with local NGO, but noted the need to make this staff increase sustainable by integrating the best volunteers within the permanent park staff.

c) *Ensuring timely release of funds by the Assam Government*

No progress was made on this matter and the mission considers that this recommendation so far has not been implemented.

d) *Undertaking a comprehensive wildlife survey to demonstrate recovery of wildlife populations*

No reliable data on wildlife status and tendencies were made available to the mission during the visit. The state of conservation of most of the key species remains unclear and controversial; the mission regretted that the recommendation made by the 2005 mission to undertake urgently a specific survey that provides the baseline to assess and monitor the wildlife and provides indications on the trends, at least of the key species, was not implemented.

e) *Transboundary cooperation*

The mission noted the efforts to further strengthen cooperation with the management authority of the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan, which has expressed interest in a potential World Heritage listing.

Although work remains to be done, the mission commended the State Party, and in particular the Park Management, the Bodoland Territorial Council, national and local NGOs for the efforts already undertaken in starting the restoration of the property and the implementation of the corrective measures. It highlighted in particular the very positive contributions from the local communities.

The mission remained concerned about the continued reports it received on illegal logging and poaching, in particular in the western part of the property, the Panbari range. It acknowledged that substantial efforts have been made to strengthen the law enforcement and to better protect wildlife and that progress definitely had been made since the 2005 mission but noted information by local stakeholders of continued poaching and deforestation pressures in the Panbari range.

The mission confirmed the assessment of the 2005 mission that the outstanding universal value of the property has been significantly impacted by the past civil strife, in particular as a result of the important reduction of the populations of the rare and endangered species, which constituted an important justification for its inscription on the World Heritage List. However, apart from the one-horned rhino, which has become locally extinct and the swamp deer, of which the remaining population seems at critical low levels, there are no indications that other key wildlife species have become extinct in the property. For the one-horned rhino, a reintroduction program is currently underway. Therefore the mission concludes that the outstanding universal value for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List is still present and can still be fully recovered.

No sufficient data were provided to allow an assessment of the current status of wildlife populations and their recovery process, as the base line survey requested by the World Heritage Committee was never implemented. Based on the observations during the field visit and discussions held with various stakeholders, the mission estimated that recovery had only just started and was still in its initial stages.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are of the opinion that the property cannot be taken out of the List of World Heritage in Danger until the recovery of key wildlife populations can be assessed. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider viable populations of all key wildlife species and a clear upward trend of these populations, confirming the recovery process, as key elements of the desired state of conservation for a removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Species specific targets could be set in consultation with the State Party as soon as a baseline survey is completed.

With no baseline data available, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN point out that it is very difficult to estimate the timing necessary to show this trend. However, on the condition that a baseline survey is completed this year and that a monitoring system for key species is set up in connection to the survey, such a clear trend could probably be shown in 2 to 3 years.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN encourage the State Party to pursue its efforts to implement the corrective measures already adopted by the World Heritage Committee and also further strengthen park management in the Panbari range, continue the reintroduction programme of the one-horned rhino and assess the need and feasibility for a restoration programme of the swamp deer.

The mission was further informed about on-going efforts to strengthen the protection status of remaining high value reserve forests outside the property, in particular parts of the Manas Reserve Forest bordering the western boundary of the national park and the Ripu and Chirang Reserve Forests further to the west in order to create a "Greater Manas". This could create the necessary conditions for the long term conservation of viable populations of large carnivores and herbivores, such as tiger and elephant. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN strongly support these efforts, which will greatly contribute to the integrity and long-term conservation of the outstanding universal value of the property.

The mission noted that the existing management plan is no longer valid and stresses the need to finalize the revision of the management plan. The revised plan should present a clear vision for the future management of the property and address amongst other the following questions of major importance: wildlife monitoring, invasive species, land use management and fire utilization. Particular attention should also be paid to the development of a tourism strategy.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.12

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.11**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes the conclusion of the mission that the outstanding universal value of the property has been significantly impacted by the past civil strife and that recovery had only just started and was still in its initial stages;*
4. *Considers the presence of viable populations of all key species and a clear upward trend of these populations as key elements of the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
5. *Commends the State Party, in particular the Bodoland Territorial Council and the management authority, for their efforts to implement the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), but notes however that further work is still needed;*
6. *Urges the State Party to complete the implementation of the corrective measures and conservation activities, as follows:*
 - a) *Urgently conduct a baseline survey on recovery of wildlife populations and set up a full monitoring system which will allow monitoring and documenting the recovery of the flagship species;*
 - b) *Resolve the problem of fund release which did not progress significantly since the last mission;*
 - c) *Complete the work for the reconstruction and improvement of the park infrastructure;*
 - d) *Fill the remaining vacant positions in the park by recruiting the best elements of the volunteers, and/or others, into permanent staff positions;*
 - e) *Strengthen and consolidate park management operations, in particular the efforts for reducing illegal logging and wildlife poaching in Panbari Range;*
 - f) *Continue the efforts for reintroduction of the one-horned rhino and assess the need and feasibility for a restoration programme of the swamp deer;*
7. *Welcomes the initiative of the Bodoland Territorial Council to increase the protection status of the remaining high value reserve forests outside the property;*
8. *Invites the States Parties of India and Bhutan to continue the process for a transboundary extension of the property to include the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan and assess the possibility to develop an ambitious extension proposal for the*

property, including also the addition of remaining intact habitats currently outside the property;

9. *Also request the State Party to implement the other recommendations of the 2007 mission, in particular finalising the management plan, developing a capacity building programme for park field staff as well as local stakeholders and developing a regional vision on tourism taking into account the limited carrying capacity of the property;*
10. *Reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, based on the results of the requested baseline survey, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
11. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular on progress in the implementation of the corrective measures and other recommendations of the 2007 mission, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
12. ***Decides to retain Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1978

Criteria

(vii) (viii) (ix) (x)

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

2007

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Inadequate implementation of the Special Law on Galápagos and lack of enforcement;
- b) Poor governance;
- c) Inadequate regional planning;
- d) Inadequate and ineffective quarantine measures;
- e) Illegal fishing;
- f) Instability of Park Director's position;
- g) High and unregulated illegal in-migration and resulting impacts of development on biodiversity;
- h) Unsustainable tourism development;
- i) Educational reform not implemented;

Desired state of Conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The Desired state of conservation has yet to be set.

Corrective measures identified

A large number of different individual activities are grouped under the following 15 main components:

- a) Reducing the number of access points to the Galápagos Islands, by sea and by air, to decrease the probabilities of new invasive species being introduced;
- b) Optimizing of resources allocated to the Galápagos conservation agencies, particularly in relation to GNP (Galápagos National Park), INGALA (Instituto Nacional Galápagos/ National Institute for Galápagos) and SESA (Servicio Ecuatoriano de Sanidad Agropecuaria - Ecuadorian Animal and Plant Inspection Service);
- c) Strengthening of the selection process for the highest ranking posts in INGALA and SESA;
- d) Reducing significantly the number of illegal immigrants in the Galápagos Islands, and the resulting impacts of unregulated population growth;
- e) Regulating recreational fishing activities;

- f) Controlling the number of tourists coming to the Galápagos Islands;
- g) Applying regulations on inspecting and fumigating aircrafts;
- h) Applying quarantine measures and the phytosanitary practices in cruisers and freighters both between the islands and between the mainland and Galápagos;
- i) Counteracting the overexploitation of fish resources and providing opportunities for alternative employment for the small-scale fishing sector;
- j) Counteracting opportunities for the dispersal of invasive species through movement of people and freight between islands and between the mainland and Galápagos;
- k) Increasing staff and infrastructure at departure points on the mainland and entry points on the Galápagos for effective inspections;
- l) Ensuring that cabotage boats meet the basic conditions for cargo and food transportation, decreasing the risk of introduction of invasive species;
- m) Planning and implementing a capacity-building strategy among local residents to enable them to be better prepared to undertake technical or professional work traditionally done by foreigners;
- n) Implementing the Integral Educational Reform which had been in the LOREG (Organic Law for the Species Regimen for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of Galápagos) since 1998 yet without realisation;
- o) Building capacity for early detection and eradication of invasive species arriving from the mainland or other islands.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

Time frames for the various activities of the Action Plan range from 2007 to 2012.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7B.29; 30 COM 7B.29; 31 COM 7B. 35

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 506,250 for emergency, training and technical support.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 3.5 million.

Previous monitoring missions

June 1996: UNESCO / IUCN mission (including Chairperson); June 2003: UNESCO mission; April 2005: UNESCO informal visit; February-March 2006: UNESCO / IUCN mission; April 2007: UNESCO / IUCN mission (including Chairperson).

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Inadequate implementation of the Special Law on Galápagos and lack of enforcement;
- b) Poor governance;
- c) Inadequate and ineffective quarantine measures;
- d) Illegal fishing;
- e) Instability of Park Director's position;
- f) High immigration rate;

- g) Unsustainable tourism development;
- h) Educational reform not implemented.

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted two reports to the World Heritage Centre in the past year. A first report (in Spanish) was received in November 2007, including 31 annexes, and noted progress made in implementing the corrective measures of the Action Plan produced in response to the Presidential Decree No. 270. In February 2008, the State Party submitted a further report on the state of conservation of the property to the World Heritage Centre (again in Spanish), including updated information on the implementation of the Action Plan. The February report includes 9 annexes on the different agreements, resolutions and new regulations that have been recently approved and which support several key actions. These include:

- Decision-making on key planning and management issues has been transferred to local bodies; to this end, various institutions like the Council of INGALA and its respective Technical Committees and the Inter-institutional Management Authority (AIM in Spanish) have been reactivated. These and other bodies have adopted resolutions, plans and regulations which focus on dealing with a number of the above-noted issues, including approval of the Plan for the Total Control of Introduced Species, the regulations on migratory control, a moratorium on the import of vehicles, prohibition of aircraft landings arriving from airports other than Quito or Guayaquil.
- At the national level, instruments for integrated planning have been developed - amongst them the National Development Plan for 2007-2010 which includes a specific plan for Galápagos.
- Important achievements were made in the control and eradication of introduced species. The report notes that 2936 goats, 45 pigs, 135 donkeys and 56 cows were removed from various islands between December 2007 and January 2008. A campaign has been started to eradicate black rats with a pilot phase underway in the Island of Seymour Norte, while the eradication of the Tilapia fish from the El Junco lake was reported as being underway in early 2008 – by February 40,000 fish were removed from this very small lake and monitoring continues. The appearance of goats on islands previously devoid of them represents a worrisome trend which could jeopardize massive investments previously made in goat removal. The mysterious January 2008 killing of 53 sea lions for no apparent reason adds to this concern.
- Since September 2007, the Galápagos Invasive Species Fund (GISF) started its capitalization process with USD 1 million received by the Ecuadorian Government and USD 2.19 million raised under the auspices of the World Heritage Centre project supported by the United Nations Foundation, Conservation International's Global Conservation Fund and the Galapagos Conservancy. The capitalization target for the GISF is set at USD 15 million.
- Further work on the restoration of ecosystems and the population of key threatened species has been carried out, including of giant turtles on Isabela Island. A plan for the ecological restoration of Pinta Island has been prepared and its implementation started in March 2008.
- Actions on fisheries have been focussing on the development of a draft chapter on fisheries management which will form part of the management plan of the Marine Reserve of Galápagos. This is being discussed with the fisheries cooperatives for their endorsement before it is submitted for approval. The World Heritage Centre's project "Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape" has supported work with fishermen in establishing small no-take zones, along with studying the feasibility of relinquishing fishing rights in

limited sensitive areas in exchange for facilitating access to credit for shifting to non-extractive activities.

- Measures with regard to tourism management have focussed on a) the development of regulations for specific tourism activities; b) the development of a study on carrying capacity for ecotourism that started in September 2007 and aims to establish the optimal number of tourism operations on every island; c) a capacity building needs assessment, which was conducted to establish a system of continuing training for natural guides working in the Galápagos National Park; d) satellite based tracking of cruise ships is being implemented, which will facilitate monitoring of cruise ship movements, ensuring they respect pre-approved itineraries; e) anchoring buoys are being developed to prevent further damages of lying anchors on sensitive sea bottoms and f) the Direction of the Galápagos National Park initiated a participatory process to establish a new model of tourism for the archipelago and a system of tourism concessions. With international assistance from the USAID a workshop on tourism management was implemented in October 2007 to discuss the design and further establishment of a new system of tourism concessions. The World Heritage Centre supported work in this area with a USD 40,000 grant in December 2007.
- Immigration control has been enforced through the application of the Special Regulation of Qualification and Control of Residence (since September 2007), and the implementation of a “Personal Card for Transit Control” which will help to identify people trying to stay in the islands over the maximum time (90 days) permitted by the law.
- On 20 December 2007, the Ministry of Education signed an agreement with UNESCO Quito office to reform the educational system on the Galápagos Islands. Financing is currently being sought for this initiative.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN note with satisfaction that the technical capacity of the Galapagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Foundation has developed tremendously over the years and together, with the necessary resources, these organizations appear able to overcome many of the management challenges related to introduced species and to ecological restoration. However, the underlying socio-economic and political contexts remain difficult and promoting positive movement in these areas will require a much broader and sustained approach from the various government agencies and the civil society. In this regard, there are a number of issues that remain to be fully addressed:

- Whilst the State Party report notes progress on the issues mentioned above it is not yet clear how these actions are leading, or will lead to actual changes in the field. Most of the actions implemented so far are predominantly process-oriented and many of them remain to be formally approved. No information on deadlines is included in the report. The report does not provide evidence on whether or how some of these actions have been implemented. The need for the State Party to move rapidly from planning to the actual approval and implementation of activities must be emphasized.
- Whilst the report notes that around 2,000 people have regularized their residence status through the application of the Special Regulation of Qualification and Control of Residence; there is no information on how many illegal immigrants have been identified and what policy will be adopted in their regard; thus making it difficult to assess the actual impacts of this regulation in limiting the population growth through immigration.
- In March 2008, the Director of the Galápagos National Park was removed from her position and an interim director was appointed. The instability of the Park’s Director position, and the rapid succession of 12 Directors and interim Directors over a 3 year period (2002-2006) was a major cause of concern at the time and a key management issue linked to poor governance and inadequate implementation of conservation and management programmes.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **31 COM 7B.35**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),
3. Reminds the State Party that the state of conservation report has to be submitted in one of the two working languages of the World Heritage Convention (French and English);
4. Commends the State Party of Ecuador for progress achieved on the implementation of some of the key corrective measures in the Action Plan produced in response to the Presidential Decree No. 270, on its continuing success in the area of control and eradication of introduced species and on the progress made in establishing and capitalizing the Galapagos Invasive Species Trust Fund, and urges the State party to continue their implementation;
5. Also urges the State Party to undertake a rigorous and transparent process whereby the position of the Galapagos National Park Service Director is filled without delay and underscores the importance of ongoing institutional and political commitment to avoid further instability of this position ;
6. Regrets that the State Party report does not provide sufficient quantitative information to objectively assess the actual impacts in the field of the activities implemented towards addressing the conservation, social and development problems affecting the property within a definite timeframe;
7. Notes with concern that fundamental conservation issues and conflicts associated with the key threats that justified the inscription of this property in the List of World Heritage in Danger remain;
8. Reiterates its request to the State Party, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to develop a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, based on the results of the requested baseline survey, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009, with particular emphasis on the identified corrective measures in its 15 point Action Plan. The report should also address the concerns noted above, along with progress on the various actions tasked by the Presidential Decree No. 270;
10. Decides to retain the Galápagos Islands (Ecuador) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

AFRICA

14. Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Ruins of Songo Mnara (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 144)

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*

ARAB STATES

15. Abu Mena (Egypt) (C 90)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1979

Criteria

(iv)

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

2001

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) A land-reclamation programme and irrigation scheme with no appropriate drainage mechanism, for the agricultural development of the region has caused a dramatic rise in the water table;
- b) The destruction of numerous cisterns, disseminated around the property, has entailed the collapse of several overlying structures. Huge underground cavities have opened in the north-western region of the property;
- c) A large, banked road has been built to enable movement within the property.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Consolidated structures;
- b) Water table lowered and monitoring system established in and around the property;
- c) Implementation of conservation and management plans.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Implementation of a rapid condition survey of all excavated remains and urgent conservation measures in order to provide protection to structures against earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
- b) Lowering of the water table by means of drainage ditches and pipes, inside and around the archaeological area;
- c) Establishment of an efficient system for monitoring the water table in the archaeological site and in the surrounding zones;
- d) Preparation of a conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc);
- e) Consultations with stakeholders with the objective of preparing a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In its report presented in 2007, the State Party announced the completion of the works by 2010

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.17; 30 COM 7A.19; 31 COM 7A.16

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 14,000

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2002: Expert mission; 2005: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Rise in the water table;
- b) Impact on structures due to earth trembling and other forms of damage likely to result from the use of heavy earth-moving equipment;
- c) Lack of conservation plan, defining short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and establishing technical parameters (materials, techniques, etc);
- d) Need for a management plan, to include research, presentation and interpretation, the role of stakeholders (e.g. the Mar Mena community), staffing, sponsorship, visitor facilities, access, etc.

Current conservation issues

The State Party reported, in a letter to the World Heritage Centre dated 25 January 2008, the following:

- a) Regarding a conservation plan, the structures are now being consolidated. The restoration and conservation plans will take place following the stabilization of the water table. Short, medium, and long-term objectives have already been established;
- b) With regard to the water table, a project for its reduction will be finished within one year. This project will include drainage ditches and pipes;
- c) A monitoring system that will be in place during and after the completion of the project is also being implemented;
- d) A buffer zone has been defined with the Department of Surveying in Egypt. This buffer zone will be on the official map of the property;
- e) After completion of the project, a protective fence will be built around the area, including the buffer zone and the antiquities area. This fence will not obstruct the panorama of the property.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that the threats identified above are still present, but it would appear from the brief report provided that the impacts of these are being mitigated by actions undertaken by the State Party. It is difficult, however, to evaluate the effectiveness and nature of these actions and to assess to what extent the threats remain current. A more detailed report with information on the timeframe for implementation is necessary.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies welcome the establishment of a buffer zone that the State Party has submitted as a minor modification for examination by the World Heritage Committee in item 8 of the Agenda (*Document WHC-08/32.COM/8B.Add*).

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.15

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7A.19** and **31 COM 7A.16**, adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party on the actions being taken to address the existing threats and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006);
4. Invites the State Party to consider a request for International Assistance to support the preparation of the conservation and management plans;
5. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
6. Requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. **Decides to retain Abu Mena (Egypt) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

16. Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat) (Iraq) (C 1130)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2003

Criteria

(iii) (iv)

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

2003

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Nearby construction of a dam entailing partial flooding and seepage;
- b) State of war in the country.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

This will be defined as soon as the situation allows it.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Relocation or cancellation of the dam project;
- b) Emergency excavations and protective measures against seepage;
- c) Establishment of a local management unit on the site;
- d) Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;
- e) Protection and consolidation of fragile mud brick structures.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No specific timeframe has yet been set by the World Heritage Committee or State Party, which mainly depends upon the evolution of the situation in the country.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.18; 30 COM 7A.20; 31 COM 7A.17

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 50,000 approved in 2003 for emergency assistance (USD 5,000 disbursed, returned to the World Heritage Fund)

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust

Previous monitoring missions

November 2002: UNESCO mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Partial flooding and seepage due to a dam building project;
- b) Fragile mud brick structures;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive conservation and management plan.

Current conservation issues

On 12 February 2008, the World Heritage Centre received a report from the State Party, stating that the property had not suffered and had remained in good condition. However, as many other archaeological sites in Iraq, Ashur has suffered from trespassing, including illegal excavations. Nowadays, however, the property is well run by an administrative officer and a technical officer, and hosts a documentation and monitoring office. Regarding security, there are 12 full-time security guards as well as antiquities protection police stationed close to the archaeological site.

The report stresses that the property remains threatened, in particular by the high water levels and strength of the Tigris River, as some parts of the eastern side are collapsing, endangering the archaeological remains. The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage is consulting the Ministry of Water Resources in order to solve this problem, and requests the assistance of the international community to protect the property.

Given the situation in Iraq, no archaeological maintenance work was carried out, and as a result, many buildings require rapid intervention. Among these, the most important is the Tabira Gate: the brickwork was last restored in 1978, and there are many cracks in the Gate caused by torrential rainfalls. Furthermore, the *ziggurat* of the city and the walls of the palaces and temples are in poor condition due to climatic reasons.

The State Party has identified a series of priority and long term measures, both for the conservation and the presentation of the property, the most urgent one being to protect the eastern part of the site from seepage. The UNESCO mission of 2002 had proposed some solutions that could possibly be implemented. Maintenance, conservation and prevention work should be carried out. The report also mentions the need to cover the excavations dating from the 1990s or to backfill them.

The State Party also indicates in its report that a parking area has been defined and that visitors were channelled through a single entry. A guidebook and signs in Arabic and English have been completed.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies commend the State Party for the efforts which have been deployed to safeguard the property in the face of extreme challenges.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.16

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.17**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes with great concern the continuing difficult situation in Iraq and deplores the loss of human lives;*
4. *Requests the State Party to take possible emergency measures to protect the eastern part of the property from the rising waters of the Tigris River and to undertake necessary maintenance and conservation work to avoid further damage;*
5. *Encourages the State Party, should the situation allow it, to implement the corrective measures and initiate the preparation of a conservation and management plan for the property;*
6. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
7. *Calls upon the international community to assist the State Party in the protection of this property;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** an updated report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*

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

17. Samarra Archaeological City (Iraq) (C 276 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2007

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

2007

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

State of war in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

This will be defined as soon as the situation allows it.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Establishment of a local management coordination unit on the site;
- b) Preparation and implementation of a conservation and management plan;
- c) Maintenance and emergency conservation activities.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

No specific timeframe has yet been set by the World Heritage Committee or State Party, which mainly depends upon the evolution of the situation in the country.

Previous Committee Decisions

31 COM 8B.23

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 from the Nordic World Heritage Fund for training and documentation aiming at the preparation of the Nomination File.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Main threats identified in previous reports

State of war in the country that does not allow the responsible authorities to assure the protection and management of the property.

Current conservation issues

On 12 February 2008, the World Heritage Centre received a report from the State Party. The Archaeological City of Samarra remains an insecure military area and, therefore, the archaeological and administrative staff is not able to carry out its work.

The camp built between the House of Ornaments (north) and the Caliph Palace (south) and the sand mound built by the military forces still exist (the mound starts from the entrance of the modern city, passes close to Caliph Al Mu'atasim Palace, turns to Abbasid Horse Race Tracks, and finally goes down until Al Qadisiyah residential area), having a serious impact upon the important remains of the ancient city. There is also deep concern regarding the movements and presence of military vehicles over the clay-made antiquities in the City of Samarra.

Moreover, owing to the above issues and the lack of periodic maintenance, some of the archaeological buildings of the property are in great need of protection. These buildings include the House of Ornaments, the Caliph Palace, Al-Mashuq Palace, the spiral minaret, and the Abu Dulaf Mosque.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies remain deeply concerned by the continued movements of military vehicles over archaeological remains and other military activities that could affect the outstanding universal value of the property.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.17

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 8B.23** adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes with great concern the continuing difficult situation in Iraq and deplores the loss of human lives;*
4. *Requests the State Party, should the situation allow it, to establish a site management unit and to initiate the preparation of a conservation and management plan for the property;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
6. *Calls upon the international community to assist the State Party in the protection of this property;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*

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

18. Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) (C 148 rev)

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*

19. Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) (C 611)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1993

Criteria

(ii) (iv) (vi)

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

2000

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Serious deterioration of the built-up heritage (40% of the residential houses being replaced by compact cement and multi-storey buildings);
- b) The remains of the houses in the city are rapidly deteriorating, due to the prevailing low income of the inhabitants;
- c) Since the souk activities have been transferred outside the city, the ancient souk is almost empty and free from any type of activity and the shops are falling apart;
- d) The traditional economic role of the city has vanished;
- e) The city in general, is lacking any conservation and rehabilitation strategies.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The State Party did not submit a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for this property.

Corrective measures identified

In its Decision **31 COM 7A.19**, the World Heritage Committee defined the measures to be taken urgently:

- a) Adequate legal and institutional framework to be set up in one year:
 - (i) Re-issuance of Cabinet Decree No.425 - 2006;
 - (ii) Government provision to General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) in Sana'a and Zabid of adequate budget to stabilize the degradation of the World Heritage property;

- (iii) Completion of heritage protection laws;
 - (iv) Completion of the draft conservation plan, with translation into Arabic. Provision of short version for wide dissemination;
- b) Physical degradation to be stopped immediately and reversed within two years:
- (i) Stopping of poor new construction and further degradation of protected heritage assets;
 - (ii) Approval of contractors and individual specialists for carrying out emergency conservation works,
 - (iii) Appropriate house improvement design - bathrooms and kitchens, infrastructure and air conditioning;
 - (iv) Good designs for new houses within Zabid;
 - (v) Starting demolition of the concrete walls on the streets and other public spaces and replacing with brick walls;
 - (vi) Planned, costed and programmed schedule of medium and long-term actions;
 - (vii) Prescription rules and regulations to be followed by inhabitants and owners;
 - (viii) Adoption of Zabid Urban Development Plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

As set out in Decision **31 COM 7A.19**: “adequate legal and institutional framework set up in one year (2008); the physical degradation stopped immediately and reversed within two years (2009)”.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.19; 30 COM7A.21; 31 COM 7A.19

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 127,918 for 2001-2007.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 7,200 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust; USD 4,000 from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement.

Previous monitoring missions

2002 and 2003: international expertise; December 2004: World Heritage Centre; January 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission.

Main threats identified in previous report

- a) Serious degradation of the city’s heritage (many houses and the ancient souk are in an alarming deterioration state);
- b) Large percentage of the city’s houses replaced by inappropriate concrete buildings;
- c) Large sections of the city’s open spaces have been privatized, either illegally or informally and more than 30% of these built-up;
- d) Lack of conservation measures and supportive developments.

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a very detailed report to the World Heritage Centre on 28 February 2008. The report provided information on a Cooperation Project between German Technical Assistance (GTZ), the Yemeni Government and the Social Fund for Development (SFD), agreed in June 2007. This project represents a commitment by the German

Government to provide Zabid with 7.500.000 Euros over nine years of assistance. The proposed first project phase is scheduled to run for three years at a cost of 5.200.000 Euros of which around 40 % are co-financed by the Social Fund for Development. It officially started on 1 September 2007. A Project Office has been established in Zabid that works closely with all institutions at the local level and international and regional experts will be available over a period of three years. The project approach is that development must support preservation, and in turn, historical assets and cultural heritage should become a basis for development and economic gain for the local population.

The State Party considers that the estimate for the loss of traditional buildings given in the 2007 Mission Report is too high. It considers that 70% of the heritage shown in aerial photos of 1971 and 1981 is existing, although in a bad state of conservation. A new detailed survey is being undertaken to provide accurate data.

The State Party's responses to the specific requests of the World Heritage Committee to be undertaken within one year are as follows:

a) *Re-issuance of Cabinet Decree No.425 – 2006:*

A new decree n° 437 – 2007 was issued in November 2007, in which, the Prime Minister put Zabid on the List of the most urgent national priorities creating a Higher Ministerial Coordination Committee for Zabid (HMCCZ) and defining role and actions of various governmental and local departments and authorities.

b) *Government provision to GOPHCY in Sana'a and Zabid of adequate budget to stabilize the degradation of the World Heritage property:*

The 2008 budget of the local office of GOPHCY has been increased by more than 25% and the Minister of Culture has also agreed an additional annual allocation from the Fund for Cultural Development in order to allow a functioning budget. This latter amount is not specified.

c) *Completion of heritage protection laws:*

The Historic Cities Law is close to enactment, after a three year gestation period. The Law has been reviewed and agreed upon by the Ministry of Legal Affairs (January 2008) and will be submitted for the Cabinet's approval and then to the Parliament.

d) *Completion of the draft conservation plan, with translation into Arabic, and provision of short version for wide dissemination:*

The process of finalising the conservation plan is now under way: a new architectural survey is ongoing (with financial support from the World Heritage Fund). Thematic plans and the missing conservation plan will be finalised by end of June 2008. The regulations and architectural recommendations developed in 2003 have been reviewed and translated in Arabic, while a manual for conservation (urban and architectural) is also under preparation.

e) *Stopping the physical degradation immediately and reversing it within two years:*

The State Party reported that the new Governor of Hodeida has officially committed himself to enforce the legislation. To date more than 20 new violations have been stopped, which represents a great improvement to the "laissez-faire" status that was prevalent before. The new Cabinet decree n°437-2007 banned once again new constructions within the city boundaries. The Ministry of Public Works is currently opening new streets in the north-eastern new extension zone as planned, where new construction is allowed.

Moreover, a Local Stakeholder Coordination Committee was established in March 2007 and meets regularly. Since September 2007, it has successfully stopped some violations, and this could increase in the future. GTZ, GOPHCY and SFD are jointly testing an incentive-based rehabilitation programme, leading to the rehabilitation of at least 250 to 300 houses during the first three years of the Project. In future, incentive-based rehabilitation and technical advice will be available to all. A spatial rehabilitation strategy will be developed in order to focus rehabilitation measures.

- f) *Developing a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity:*

The State Party reported that this has not yet been drafted and will be done after the completion of the building survey.

- g) *Timescale:*

The State Party considered that the new GTZ/SFD project needs time to develop and brings realistic results and changes in the city. They consider that in the light of the very successful experience of Shibam, they need to give the project sufficient time, to allow the population of Zabid to experience a real improvement in their day-to-day life, in order to build confidence and support for conservation projects. The State Party has indicated some progress with halting violations and reversing the acknowledged "laissez-faire" approach to these violations. They request that they are given a further three years to demonstrate adequate progress before the World Heritage Committee reviews its approach to the possible removal of Zabid from the World Heritage List.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that a comprehensive understanding of the buildings of the city and their state of conservation is essential if the GTZ/SFD project is to sustain the attributes that carry the outstanding universal value for which Zabid was inscribed on the World Heritage List. Therefore, a Statement of outstanding universal value should be drafted (and approved by the World Heritage Committee).

While conservation work will be ongoing for a long period of time in Zabid, it is important to establish indicators to demonstrate progress at regular intervals, if the values of Zabid are to be sustained sufficiently to allow it to remain on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee may wish to review its decision as to whether to keep Zabid on the World Heritage List at the end of the first phase of the GTZ/SFD project in 2010 rather than 2009.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.19

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.19**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes the progress made by the State Party to stop building violations and demolitions, to carry out a survey of the buildings, to complete heritage protection laws and to draft the conservation plan and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);*

4. *Welcomes the joint German Technical Assistance (GTZ), Yemeni Government and Social Fund for Development (SFD) project and the considerable funding and expertise that this has provided; and also notes that first phase will be completed in June 2010;*
5. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
7. ***Decides to retain the Historic Town of Zabid (Yemen) on the List of World Heritage in Danger, with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the possible deletion of the property from the World Heritage List, at its 34th session in 2010.***

ASIA AND PACIFIC

20. Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) (C 211 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2002

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

2002

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Lack of legal protection;
- b) Lack of an effective monuments protection agency;
- c) Lack of adequate protection and conservation personnel;
- d) Lack of a comprehensive management plan.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Increased capacity of the staff of the Afghan Ministry of Information and Culture in charge of the preservation of the property ensured;
- b) Precisely identified World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones;
- c) Long-term stability and conservation of the Minaret of Jam ensured;
- d) Site security ensured;
- e) A comprehensive management system including a long-term conservation policy developed and implemented.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Development of adequate capacity of the staff of the Ministry of Information and Culture by developing and implementing an adequate training programme in conservation and management;
- b) Precise identification of the World Heritage property and clearly marked boundaries and buffer zones by:
 - (i) Undertaking topographic and archaeological surface surveys and re-defining core and buffer zones, as well as identifying zones affected by illicit excavations;
 - (ii) Marking of the core zone as "World Heritage protected area";
 - (iii) Officially revising the boundaries of the World Heritage property according to the results of the relevant surveys in order to complement the already identified outstanding universal value;

- c) Long-term consolidation and conservation of the Minaret and the archaeological remains by:
 - (i) Completing the documentation and recording of the Minaret and the archaeological remains;
 - (ii) Undertaking soil investigation in the vicinity of the monument in order to obtain information on the cause of the inclination of the Minaret and to define the long-term consolidation measures;
 - (iii) Regular and systematic monitoring of the Minaret's inclination;
 - (iv) Establishing a full inventory of decoration including digitalization and reference system for all eight sides of the base of the Minaret;
 - (v) Implementing emergency restoration of the surface decoration of the Minaret;
- d) Ensuring site security by:
 - (i) Exerting strict control of illicit excavations and protecting the site against looting, notably through hiring of an adequate number of trained site guards;
 - (ii) Implementing measures for enforcing the 2004 Preservation Law for Cultural and Historical Monuments;
- e) Development and implementation of a management system by undertaking appropriate training for the staff of the Ministry of Information and Culture in charge of the property.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A minimum of four years has been agreed in 2007, i.e. 2011.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.20; 30 COM 7A.22; 31 COM 7A.20

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: 1995-2001: USD 17,200 for the construction of a protective wall; 2003: USD 100,000 for Emergency Assistance for the training for national and local authorities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in Afghanistan.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 845,000 provided by the Government of Italy and USD 138,000 by the Government of Switzerland.

Previous monitoring missions

No reactive monitoring mission as such, but UNESCO expert missions sent every year since 2002 in order to implement the operational project for the property, except in 2007 due to UN security restrictions.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Political instability;
- b) Inclination of the Minaret;
- c) Lack of management plan.

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report to the World Heritage Centre on 27 February 2008 which describes the successful implementation of the emergency work carried out in 2007 to protect the Minaret from the nearby rivers' erosion following the destruction of the protective gabions by the heavy floods in Spring 2007.

This emergency work included the construction of a wall for stabilizing the bank of the river immediately below the Minaret, was mainly financed by the State Party, with an amount of USD 200,000 from the National budget, and was co-financed under the UNESCO World Heritage Centre/Italy and Swiss Funds-in-Trust projects for Jam.

The report submitted by the State Party also mentions the needs for consolidation and conservation of the property, including archaeological activities. However, no reference is made in the report to other aspects of the Decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), such as the development of staff capacity, site security and a management plan, as well as possible plans for the construction of a bridge in the vicinity of the property.

Due to the current deteriorating security situation in the country, no UNESCO expert mission could be undertaken for the continuation of consolidation and conservation activities.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies commend the State Party for the efforts and resources which have been deployed to safeguard the property in the face of extreme challenges.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.20

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.20**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes the commitment of the State Party and the international community to the safeguarding of this property and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);*
4. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
5. *Calls upon the international community, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, to continue its technical and financial support, in particular to implement the above corrective measures;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, a progress report on the implementation of corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
7. ***Decides to retain the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

21. Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) (C 208 rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2003

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (vi)

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

2003

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Risk of imminent collapse of the Buddha niches;
- b) Irreversible deterioration of the mural paintings;
- c) Looting, illicit traffic and illegal excavations of cultural heritage assets;
- d) Continued use of certain heritage areas for military posts;
- e) Anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordinances (i.e. munitions).

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Site security ensured;
- b) Long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches ensured;
- c) Adequate state of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings achieved;
- d) Management plan and cultural master plan (the protective zoning plan) implemented.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Ensure site security by:
 - (i) exerting strict control of illicit excavations and looting through hiring of adequate number of trained site guards, and
 - (ii) clearing unexploded ordinances and anti-personnel mines from the property;
- b) Ensure long-term stability of the Giant Buddha niches by installing a permanent monitoring system;
- c) Ensure adequate state of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings by:
 - (i) completing the conservation of the fragments of the Giant Buddha statues;
 - (ii) completing the conservation of the mural paintings in the prioritized Buddhist caves;
- d) Implement the *management plan* and the *cultural master plan* (the protective zoning plan) by developing institutional capacity, notably for the Ministry of Culture and the intersectoral Bamiyan Cultural Landscape Coordination Committee (BCLCC).

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

A timeframe of three years has currently been proposed by the UNESCO 6th Expert Working Group Meeting, held in Tokyo, January, 2008, to meet the Desired state of conservation.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.21; 30 COM 7A.23; 31 COM 7A.21

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 150,000 (in 2002 and 2003) for Preparatory assistance.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 3,237,027 (2003-2008) through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust.

Previous monitoring missions

No reactive monitoring mission has been carried out since 2002, but UNESCO expert missions have been sent every year since 2002 in order to implement the projects for the property.

Main threats identified in previous reports

See above

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted a report to the World Heritage Centre on 27 February 2008, which concentrated on conservation and restoration works at the property. However, no reference was made to other aspects of the World Heritage Committee's decisions, such as the management plan and site security.

The State Party did not submit to the World Heritage Centre, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, nor the management plan and a progress report on the implementation of corrective measures.

Updated information has been provided by the final report on the "Safeguarding of the Bamiyan Site" project - Phase II, which was financed by the Japanese Government. This report states that the activities implemented in 2007 include assistance to the Afghan authorities in the following:

- a) Defining the steps to be undertaken in the future for the clearing of unexploded ordinances and anti-personnel mines from the property;
- b) Installing a permanent monitoring system on the Giant Buddha niches;
- c) Ensuring of adequate state of conservation of archaeological remains and mural paintings;
- d) Preparation, finalization and Implementation of the management plan and the cultural master plan.

The cultural master plan has been officially adopted in 2006. As for the management plan for the property, work is still in progress. Looting, illicit traffic and illegal excavations of cultural heritage assets are being addressed by an initial site-management and monitoring system. However, due to the situation of the country, it remains extremely difficult to ensure effective governance of the property. Though the military is no longer active in the heritage areas of the Bamiyan Valley, anti-personnel mines and unexploded ordinances remain unidentified

and uncleared in certain areas of the property, and no archaeological studies or conservation works can be carried out in these areas prior to mine clearance.

In order to ensure site security, including the safety of the public, mission members, and local workers, the report stresses that critical issues should be addressed. The steps identified to ensure proper site security include:

- a) Strict control over illicit excavations and looting through hiring of adequate number of trained site guards;
- b) Establishment of a regular site inspection system by professionals from the Ministry of Information and Culture;
- c) Removal of all unexploded ordnances (UXOs) and anti-personnel mines from the property.

With regard to the de-mining operations, a 2008-2009 plan to clear all mines and UXOs in the whole area of Bamiyan is currently being developed by UNMACA (United Nations Mine Action Cooperation in Afghanistan) and UNESCO Office in Kabul. This work has recently received funding by the Japanese Government through UN Mine Action Services (UNMAS) at UN Headquarters in New York within the framework of UN Voluntary Funds-in Trust.

A Project Document for the "Safeguarding of the Bamiyan Site" Phase III was submitted by UNESCO on 28 February 2008 to the Japanese Authorities, for the amount of approx. USD 1.5 million, to be implemented from 2008 to 2011. The Bamiyan third phase project will focus more on training activities and awareness-raising among the national/local authorities as well as the inhabitants.

During the UNESCO/ICOMOS Sixth Expert Working Group on the Preservation of the property in January 2008 in Tokyo, it was recommended that major activities under phase III should help attain the desired state of conservation by 2011.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.21**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes the efforts and commitment of the State Party and the international community for the safeguarding of this property and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures, particularly the completion of the management plan for the property, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);*
4. *Welcomes the three-year timeframe proposed at the UNESCO 6th Expert Working Group Meeting in Tokyo in January 2008, to meet the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
5. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
6. *Calls upon the international community to continue providing technical and financial support, in particular to achieve the Desired state of conservation;*

7. *Also requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** a progress report on the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
8. ***Decides to retain the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

22. Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) (C 1208)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv) (v)

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

2004

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Severe damage to the property caused by the earthquake in December 2003;
- b) Development pressures related to the post-disaster reconstruction process.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Conservation of the Arg-e-Bam and other cultural heritage assets within the World Heritage property;
- b) Completion of necessary scientific studies for the recognition, registration, and legal protection of properties with historical, cultural, and natural significance within the cultural landscape zone, as well as marking the protective boundaries around each property within this zone;
- c) Implementation of the management plan;
- d) Precise understanding and definition of the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property;
- e) Adequate security of the heritage areas within the World Heritage property in addition to the Arg-e Bam.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Stabilisation and protection of the Arg-e-Bam and other significant cultural heritage assets within the World Heritage property by:
 - (i) Stabilisation of both the lower and upper parts of the citadel;
 - (ii) Removal and documentation of debris;
- b) Completion of necessary scientific studies for the recognition, registration, and legal protection of properties with historical, cultural and natural significance within the

- cultural landscape zone, as well as marking the protective boundaries around each property within this zone;
- c) management plan implemented by:
 - (i) Approval at final stakeholders meeting;
 - (ii) Legal Adoption by late 2007;
 - d) Precise definition of the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property by completing the mapping of the archaeology and geomorphology of Bam and its Cultural Landscape;
 - e) Adequate security of the heritage areas within the World Heritage property in addition to the Arg-e Bam by increased number of guards and vehicles;

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

2010

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.23; 30 COM 7A.25 ; 31 COM 7A.22 ; 31 COM 8B.59

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: 2004 - USD 50,000

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 568,000 (2004-2007) from the UNESCO-Japan Funds-in-Trust; USD 300,000 (2005-2008) from the UNESCO Italy Funds-in-Trust; USD 20,000 (2004) from the World Bank Italian Trust Funds

Previous monitoring missions

Since January 2004: Several UNESCO missions.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of comprehensive management plan;
- b) The boundaries of the property inscribed on an emergency basis were not aligned with the written text of the original Nomination File;
- c) Development pressures related to the post-disaster reconstruction process ;

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre received a comprehensive state of conservation report from the State Party on 25 January 2008. The report describes the progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures, as follows:

- a) The emergency conservation carried out in the course of 2007 focused mainly on the removal of debris, consolidation, and documentation of the Arg-e-Bam. Effective techniques for the conservation of earthen architecture have been developed and various pilot projects have been undertaken for the stabilisation of both the lower and the upper parts of the citadel;
- b) A centre for documentation of debris has been established. Currently, 70% of the debris within Arg-e-Bam has been removed and documented;
- c) The protective boundaries around Arg-e-Bam have been marked by ICHHTO (Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicraft and Tourism Organization). All constructions around the

Arg-e-Bam are being effectively controlled and the Gardens are being preserved. Mapping of archaeology and geomorphology of Bam and its Cultural Landscape is continuing.

- d) The review process for the legal adoption of the comprehensive management plan is in progress. An "Office for Bam Cultural Landscape" has been established in close coordination with the local Governor and in close coordination with ICHHTO to ensure an effective implementation of the management plan at the local level;
- e) Studies are being conducted for the precise understanding and definition of the outer boundaries of the heritage areas surrounding the property for the future extended landscape zone. The studies should be completed by 2010 provided the necessary budget for these studies is ensured;
- f) Adequate protection of the heritage areas is being ensured by a Security Base established in 2007, which includes 12 guards and assistance from the police if necessary.

A redefinition of the Statement of outstanding universal value has been submitted by the State Party and will be presented to the World Heritage Committee for examination in Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8B*.

However, at its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to prepare an updated version of the Nomination file so as to match the perimeter of the property and its outstanding universal value. The relevant documentation has yet to be provided.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.22

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **31 COM 7A.22** and **31 COM 8B.59**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes the commitment of the State Party and the international community to the safeguarding of this property and the progress made towards achieving the Desired state of conservation and urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007);*
4. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an up-dated Nomination file based on the property boundaries approved in Decision **31 COM 8B.59**, and the outstanding universal value of the property;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** a report on the progress made in implementing the corrective measures for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
6. ***Decides to retain Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

23. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171–172)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1981

Criteria

(i) (ii) (iii)

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

2000

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Damage to the external walls and demolition of hydraulic works of Shalamar Gardens;
- b) Serious state of degradation of the historic monuments and garden complex within the property.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Master plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens approved and implemented;
- b) Foundations of the water tanks of the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens protected and consolidated as archaeological relics;
- c) External walls of Shalamar Gardens and Lahore Fort preserved and protected;
- d) Boundaries of the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens redefined and extended;
- e) Encroachments and urban pressure adequately controlled;
- f) Safeguarding programme with corresponding timeframe and financial resources elaborated.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Implementation of master plans for Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
- b) Consolidation and adequate protection of the foundations of the demolished water tanks and preservation of the remaining third tank of the hydraulic works at Shalamar Gardens, as well as overall preservation of the hydraulic works as archaeological relics;
- c) Protection and preservation measures for the external walls of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;
- d) Redefinition of boundaries of the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens and submission of proposal for extension to the World Heritage Committee, taking into account the recommendations to include the Badshahi Masjid (Royal Mosque) and Tomb of Rangjit Singh, proposed following the 2003 and 2005 missions;
- e) Removal of encroachments and control of urban pressures, including removal of parking for busses in the immediate vicinity of Lahore Fort;
- f) Prioritisation for allocation and use of available resources according to the management objectives determined in the master plans.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

To be discussed with the State Party during the foreseen joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.25 ; 30 COM 7A.27; 31 COM 7A.24

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 115,000 (1981–2001)

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 975,000

Previous monitoring missions

October 2000 ; April 2001 ; June 2003 ; November 2005

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Demolition of two of the tanks and partial demolition of a third tank of the hydraulic works of the Shalimar Gardens;
- b) Encroachments and urban pressure;
- c) Insufficient management mechanisms (including incomplete legislation, lack of financial resources);
- d) Lack of definition of boundaries of the Lahore Fort and Shalimar Gardens;
- e) Problems relating to the management of the property.

Current conservation issues

The State Party's report, received by the World Heritage Centre on 7 February 2008, provides information on the completed and ongoing restoration and preservation activities undertaken in the framework of the "Five Year Programme for the Preservation of Lahore Fort" (2006-2011):

- a) The preservation and conservation works at the Old Water reservoir which have been completed during 2006-2007 include the restoration of the arches, consolidations of walls, clearing and sealing of roof. A boundary wall with iron fencing is proposed in the five year programme and will be erected after the Great Trunk road has been realigned;
- b) At Lahore Fort parts of the western and northern walls of the fortification have been consolidated and decaying parts have been underpinned. To ensure the protection of the site the iron grill fencing has been completed at the eastern side. Further conservation works of the perimeter wall are necessary and foreseen in the preservation programme;
- c) The Action Plan for 2007-2008 foresees the improvements of drainage along the boundary wall of Shalimar Gardens and funds have been committed to the construction of a water collection and drainage system. Other projects include the restoration of the perimeter wall, preservation and restoration of water channels and tanks, provision of public toilets, restoration of Moor Craft building and documentation;
- d) In order to ensure a buffer zone around Shalimar Gardens, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has issued orders for the removal of encroachments and illegal buildings.

The report however does not provide any information concerning the steps taken to redefine the core and buffer zones of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens nor the possible extension including the Badshahi Masjid (Royal Mosque) and Tomb of Rangjit Singh which form an integral part of the physical and historical context of the Lahore Fort. The report submitted by the State Party indicates that progress has been made, but clarifies that the full implementation of the corrective measures listed in Decision **31 COM 7A.24** will require considerable work in the context of the approved 5-year plans.

Due to the difficult political situation of Pakistan and security concerns the foreseen joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission could to date not take place. The aim of the mission was to define, in close collaboration with the authorities, the desired state of conservation and to assess progress in implementing the corrective measures.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.23

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.27**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes the progress made by the State Party in the overall preservation and conservation of Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens;*
4. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
5. *Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission so as to assess the progress made towards the desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for its examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
6. *Recommends that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Committee a formal request for the modification of the boundaries of the property;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009** a progress report, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
8. ***Decides to retain the Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

24. Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1995

Criteria

(iii) (iv) (v)

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

2001

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) The abandonment of the terraces due to neglected irrigation system and people leaving the area;
- b) Unregulated development threatening the property;
- c) Tourism needs are not addressed;
- d) Lack of an effective management system.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

To be further defined through cooperation between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, including the stabilization of the rice terraces, woodland and water management as well as management, planning, resource and tourism strategies.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Establish a functioning management mechanism at the provincial and municipal levels;
- b) Put in place zoning and land-use plans responding to community-based activities and traditional value systems;
- c) Provide regulations over tourism and infrastructure developments to encourage community based tourism which benefits the rice terraces and the local communities;
- d) Develop a resource strategy at the national, provincial, municipal and village (barangay) levels and put in place a five year plan, according to the management objectives determined in the conservation and management plan, with top priority given to the regular maintenance and stabilisation of the rice terraces and lifeline irrigation systems so as to reverse their deterioration;
- e) Establish appropriate development control procedures for development projects in the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras, including by designating the World Heritage cluster sites of the rice terraces and their supportive eco-system (i.e. watershed system) as "environmental critical areas", where an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for any proposed development projects. Cultural heritage conservation expertise should be also included in the EIA review committee;
- f) Strengthen the reforestation programme to include a wider range of endemic trees species to protect the watershed system for the rice terraces and prevent the introduction of exotic species in the private or communal parts of the rice terraces.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

In its Decision **30 COM 7A.28**, the World Heritage Committee requested that the above corrective measures be implemented by 2007. A more realistic timeframe should be developed by the State Party in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.26; 30 COM 7A.28; 31 COM 7A.25

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 153,200 for Preparatory assistance, Training and Emergency assistance.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: ICOMOS/IUCN monitoring mission; June 2005: UNESCO expert mission; April 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN monitoring mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Lack of an effective site management authority and adequate legislation;
- b) Absence of a finalized strategic site management plan;
- c) Development of inappropriate river control structures and irregular construction in the rice terraces;
- d) Diminishing interest of the Ifugao people in their culture and in maintaining the rice terraces;
- e) Lack of human and financial resources.

Current conservation issues

On 27 February 2008, the State Party submitted its report to the World Heritage Centre, presenting progress made in implementing the corrective measures.

In its report, the State Party submitted a Statement of outstanding universal value but did not submit a proposed Desired state of conservation for the property. The Statement of outstanding universal value has been reviewed by ICOMOS. This will be examined by the World Heritage Committee under Item 8 of the Agenda (Document *WHC-08/32.COM/8B*).

The State Party also submitted new information on recent developments with regard to the various corrective measures, as follows:

- a) The contract for the Cultural Officer of the Hungduan cluster site has not yet been confirmed for 2008;
- b) The Provincial government set up a Project Development Unit (PDU) at the end of 2007 to pursue resources for the conservation of the rice terraces including innovative marketing strategies;
- c) The University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) in December 2007 started research into Sustainable Financing for the Conservation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces. This is allegedly meant to facilitate the proclamation/declaration of the rice terraces watershed and forest areas as "environmental critical areas";

- d) A consultation workshop was organised in October 2007 with local leaders and terrace farmers in Mayoyao, as an initial effort to document family and/or clan owners of the terraces;
- e) 387 farmers from the Rice Terraces Farmers Cooperative of Kalinga and Ifugao exported 17.5 metric tons of traditional native rice to the US in September 2007;
- f) With financial support from the Department of Agriculture of the Ifugao Province, some 42 communal irrigation systems in the four World Heritage sites composing the property were restored or maintained;
- g) The Provincial Government of Ifugao has stated that it presently cannot afford to establish storage facilities for a seed bank;
- h) The Ifugao Division of the Department of Education conducted a 2-day workshop in November 2007 with school administrators and teachers to develop strategies for integrating indigenous knowledge within courses in secondary and elementary schools. Moreover, the 2nd Hudhud Festival for the promotion of Intangible Heritage was conducted in December 2007 with participation from 17 schools;
- i) The proposed mini-power project (see below) is said to fall outside the scope of existing national EIA regulations.

There was no specific mention, in the report of the State Party, as to how the actions relate to the implementation of the 2004 conservation and management plan.

Proposed twinning programme

Based on the findings of previous monitoring missions, the World Heritage Committee had recommended that the feasibility of a twinning programme of exchange and cooperation be explored between this property and the World Heritage property of the Cinque Terre (Italy), which shares similar features with the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera.

With financial support from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-In-trust, the World Heritage Centre organized a mission of an Italian expert to attend the ICOMOS meeting on Preserving Traditional Landscapes which took place at the property from 2 to 10 December 2007. As a result of this initiative, a study tour for the site managers of the Rice Terraces to Cinque Terre (Italy) has been proposed.

Proposed Mini-Power project

After being rejected by the local communities of Hungduan and Asipulo, the mini-hydropower plant project, proposed by the Tokyo Electric Power Corporation (TEPCO) in coordination with the Provincial Government, was accepted by the Kiangnan municipality. The Ambangal river and its immediate surrounding areas were identified as a suitable site. The area is agricultural land located in the buffer zone.

Despite some concerns from local people about using their ancestral land and whether water levels in summer are adequate, the project is progressing and consultation meetings were scheduled in February to March 2008. Although it is stated that this proposed project falls outside the scope of current EIA regulations, the State Party acknowledges that EIA procedures “*for cultural heritage impact assessment of all infrastructure development projects in World Heritage cluster sites will be useful to prevent irreversible damage and exploration of alternatives that would be consistent with maintaining the integrity of the property*”. It is not clear how this will be achieved. As the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera have not been officially designated as an “environmental critical area”, as recommended by the World Heritage Committee in 2006, an appropriate EIA, including

provisions for cultural heritage impact assessment, is not mandatory for all proposed developments.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that further details for this project should be submitted, including the benefits to local communities, and that a full EIA should be undertaken, including consideration of alternative locations.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.24

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.25**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Takes note of the progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures identified by the World Heritage Committee in 2006, including by restoring and maintaining 42 communal irrigation systems within the property and by setting up a Project Development Unit to mobilise financial resources;*
4. *Welcomes the steps undertaken towards the development of a twinning programme of exchange and cooperation between the World Heritage property of the Rice terraces of the Philippines Cordilleras and the Cinque Terre property (Italy);*
5. *Urges the State Party to continue its work on the corrective measures adopted at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), particularly with regard to the implementation of the 2004 conservation and management plan; the development of a resource strategy; of zoning, land-use plans and of a specific plan for the promotion of community based tourism at the property; and the establishment of appropriate control procedures for development projects within the property;*
6. *Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a proposal of the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger and a revised timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to supply further details of the proposed mini-power project, including benefits to local communities, and to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
9. ***Decides to retain the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

25. The Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and the Meidan Tower (Azerbaijan) (C 958)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2000

Criteria

(iv)

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

2003

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Changing urban fabric due to the illegal demolition of historic buildings and uncontrolled construction and reconstruction within the Walled City;
- b) Lack of any management system and insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive management plan that addresses conservation problems, urban development control and tourism activities.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Operational institutional framework for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;
- b) Clearly defined and approved framework for the active involvement of all stakeholders;
- c) "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" implemented.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Administrative structure and related programmes within the Cabinet of Ministers defined and supported with adequate resources and fully operational;
- b) Completion of an inventory of all monuments, buildings and their infrastructures indicating their physical condition as well as expected rehabilitation methodologies;
- c) Completion and implementation of the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" to address conservation issues, urban development control and tourism management with the active involvement of all stakeholders.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

1 February 2010

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.28; 30 COM 7A.29; 31 COM 7A.26

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 15,000 for preparatory assistance (1998); USD 14,800 for technical assistance (2004).

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 30,000 (American Funds Special Account 2005/06); USD 22,000 (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, 2005/06)

Previous monitoring missions

February 2002: UNESCO mission; October 2002: UNESCO-ICOMOS mission; January 2003: UNESCO mission; April 2003: UNESCO mission; November 2003: ICCROM mission; October 2004: UNESCO mission to participate in the Round Table; September 2005: UNESCO mission (with the University of Minnesota, USA); March 2007: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Changing urban fabric due to the demolition of buildings and uncontrolled construction within the Walled City;
- b) Overall lack of any management system and in particular insufficient coordination between the national and municipal authorities;
- c) Absence of a comprehensive management plan that addresses conservation problems, urban development control and tourism activities.

Current conservation issues

As requested by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **31 COM 7A.26**, a report was submitted by the Azeri authorities dated 13 March 2008. The report presents progress in the implementation of follow-up measures to previous decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of the property, as well as the measures which the State Party took to protect the outstanding universal value of the property. Progress was noted in the following areas:

a) *Management structure*

In order to ensure the protection of the World Heritage property as well as to improve the management system of the property, the statutes and the structure of the Department of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher" established under the Cabinet of Ministers were defined by the Presidential Decree 574 dated 16 May 2007. Within the framework of this decree it was intended to establish the Communal Housing and Maintenance Service, the Scientific Production and Restoration Workshop, the Museum of "Icherisheher", and the Scientific-Cultural Centre. These organizations have been created and are fully operational. The regulations of the sections of the Department of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher" were approved and provided with staff.

It is also planned to establish the Council of Elders consisting of residents of Icherisheher in order to inform the public and to ensure transparency in decision-making processes.

b) *Protection and conservation activities*

As a result, the area was put under the full control of the Department. All illegal constructions in Icherisheher were halted by 1 January 2007 and new examination of constructions are conducted. Provisions of the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" are specified and combined with the plan of urgent measures for 2007 and the following years. Construction

standards and regulations were established according to the “Integrated Area Management Action Plan” for rehabilitation, restoration and use of each site.

The buildings and sites situated in the area of Icherisheher are partly the property of some governmental bodies which influence negatively on the conservation and inviolability of the sites. By the Presidential Decree of 31 January 2008, some of these sites were transferred to the Department. The Communal Housing Service was created according to the order of 11 June 2007 by the Department with the purpose of repairing, constructing, sanitary cleaning and planting of greenery and providing housing-communal services in the area of Icherisheher. The Scientific-Production Restoration Workshop was created according to the order of 20 August 2007 by the Department with the purpose of ensuring restoration, and rehabilitation works in the Reserve. The Department set up a special Commission responsible for examining construction projects.

In addition work was undertaken to improve the overall integrity of the area, the restoration and rehabilitation of the monuments and development of the territory, including removal of illegal buildings, rehabilitation of historic roads and repair works in 33 residential buildings. The establishment of an electronic information database based on the results of the inventory of sites and monuments in Icherisheher is continuing.

According to the project prepared for the “Integrated Area Management Action Plan”, it is foreseen to complete the rehabilitation and restoration of the sites and the surrounding areas during the year 2008, with financial support from the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the State Investment Programme, as well as the 2008 Department’s budget and sponsor contributions. In addition, the Department plans define the detailed lists and contents of the measures for social-economic development of Icherisheher.

c) *“Integrated Area Management Action Plan”*

On 27 September 2007, the “Integrated Area Management Action Plan” of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve “Icherisheher”, elaborated by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the World Bank has been presented to stakeholders.

In accordance with this “Integrated Area Management Action Plan” the following three actions were identified by the Presidential orders and decrees concerning the conservation of property:

- Halt all illegal constructions in Icherisheher;
- Restore Icherisheher;
- Improve the presentation of Icherisheher as an international tourism site meeting modern requirements.

While the State Party report provides detailed information, it does not however address the issues concerning the management responsibility for the buffer zone, the coordination between the Department, national institutions and local authorities (Baku Municipality) working on the Walled City and its buffer zone. The World Heritage Centre recalls that the current buffer zone covers a relatively narrow area around the World Heritage core zone, and that the possibility of extending the buffer zone should be given careful consideration, in order to integrate the 19th and early 20th centuries urban areas.

The State Party report does not mention if the “Integrated Area Management Action Plan” of the Reserve “Icherisheher” was adopted by the State Party with adequate financial support for its implementation.

d) *Icherisheher conservation master plan:*

An international expert group was created in order to assist in preparing the master plan for the conservation of Icherisheher, and a first expert mission came to the Walled City on 23 June 2007. Subsequently, the Department prepared a draft conservation master plan. It is however not clear how the master plan relates to the "Integrated Area Management Plan".

e) *Awareness raising activities*

The Department of the State Historical-Architectural Reserve "Icherisheher" co-organized the International Scientific-Practical Conference "XXI Century and Historical Islamic cities" held from 19 to 21 November 2007 in Baku. On 18 December 2007, it also held a symposium on samples of ancient cultural artefacts of Baku discovered in Icherisheher. Special publications on "Icherisheher" in three languages and an "Icherisheher" magazine were produced. World Heritage signage and information boards were installed in the area and an information database was created for the web portal of "Icherisheher".

It is to be noted that the draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the property was not provided by the State Party for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in 2008, as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007).

Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS have received reports indicating that numerous demolition, restoration, rehabilitation and rebuilding works are being carried out within the boundary of the World Heritage property without adequate planning and conservation procedures. It is therefore urgent to design, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, guidelines for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings, including rehabilitation methodologies, as well as the design of new constructions and street furniture.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.25

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.3**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes the establishment of a management structure within the Cabinet of Ministers, as well as significant progress made by the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to adopt the completed "Integrated Area Management Action Plan" and to integrate it into the urban planning system of the City of Baku;*
5. *Also notes the initiation of a conservation master plan for "Icherisheher" and requests that the development of this planning tool be integrated within the "Integrated Area Management Action Plan";*
6. *Also reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*

7. *Urges* the State Party to prepare, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, guidelines for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic buildings, including rehabilitation methodologies, as well as for the design of new constructions and street furniture;
8. *Encourages* the State Party to clearly define and approve an institutional coordination framework for the active involvement of stakeholders;
9. *Also requests* the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS reactive monitoring mission in order to review the implementation of the corrective measures;
10. *Further requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, an updated report, on the state of conservation of the property, and progress made in the implementation of the corrective measures, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
11. ***Decides to retain the Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower (Azerbaijan) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

26. Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) (C 1156)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv) (v) CL

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

2006

Application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism at the property since 2007 (31 COM 7A.32)

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Four-lane bridge construction project in the core zone of the World Heritage property

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

Halting of the bridge project

Corrective measures identified

- a) Discussions with all stakeholders to find alternative solutions so as to ensure the safeguarding of the outstanding universal value of the property;
- b) Review without delay the projects in the core zone taking into account the results of the visual impact study.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) Discussion with stakeholders from July 2006 to February 2008;
- b) Review of projects in the core zone: ongoing until a solution is found.

Previous Committee Decisions

28 COM 14B.40; 30 COM 7B.77; 31 COM 7A.21

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: World Heritage Centre mission to the Cultural Committee of the German Parliament,; November 2006: World Heritage Centre mission to the Court in Bautzen
February 2008: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reinforced monitoring mission.

Main threats identified in previous reports

Four-lane bridge construction project in the core zone of the World Heritage property

Current conservation issues

At the request of the State Party and the city authorities a Reinforced Monitoring Mission to the Dresden Elbe Valley was carried out on 4 and 5 February 2008. The mission was organized, in consultation with the authorities of the State Party, in the context of the decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee over the past two years regarding the possible adverse impact of a proposed bridge on the river Elbe on the outstanding universal value of the property (see Decisions **30 COM 7B.77** and **31 COM 7A.27**). The proposed bridge was to be constructed within the core zone of the World Heritage property, near the so-called Waldschlösschen area.

The mission noted that construction works on the Waldschlösschen Bridge had already started, following the basic design of the original project which had been granted building permission by the Regional Council, and which had been presented for evaluation to UNESCO, except for some modifications. On 5 February 2008, excavations were ongoing to lay the foundations of the bridge, while existing sewerage pipes buried under ground were being diverted. At the same time, works were underway on the northern bank of the Elbe to realise the section of the tunnel which is supposed to link the bridge with the Bautzner Street. According to the architect, the foundations of the bridge should be completed by June 2008. In this regard, the mission considers that the modifications made to the original design of the bridge, while testifying to a genuine attempt to make it less intrusive, do not change the fundamental concept of the proposed construction that is its overall shape, size, function and location. In other words, given the scale at which the impact of the bridge on the World Heritage property of the Dresden Elbe Valley would have to be assessed (i.e. that of the landscape), the solution which is now being implemented does not seem to alter significantly the terms of the question debated by the World Heritage Committee already at its 30th and 31st sessions in 2006 and 2007.

The mission came to the following conclusions:

- a) The solution of the Elbe crossing which is being implemented would, when completed, have a considerable negative and irreversible impact on the outstanding universal value of the World Heritage property. This would result from an encroachment upon the

integrity of the cultural landscape whose harmonious and picturesque combination of urban and natural features has been carefully preserved over the centuries-long history of the City of Dresden.

- b) The implementation of an alternative solution based on a tunnel, which was discussed with the Dresden authorities during the mission, would appear to have a considerably smaller impact on the Elbe Valley cultural landscape. For such an alternative, an impact assessment would be required in order to fully understand the visual, technical and environmental implications of the project. The mission recommended that the ongoing construction of the foundation pillars be stopped in order not to prejudge the possibility of the choice of an alternative solution.
- c) Concerning an alternative bridge design, the mission noted that the required new planning procedure for a different bridge would have the same negative financial and timing consequences as a tunnel, while the result in terms of negative impact on the integrity and outstanding universal value on the World Heritage property would very likely be comparable to those of the present bridge.

The detailed mission report (see <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2008>) was provided to the State Party authorities for comments and the Reinforced Monitoring Report was transmitted to the Members of the World Heritage Committee (see <http://whc.unesco.org/archive/2008>).

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.26

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **30 COM 7B.77** and **31 COM 7A.27** adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively, and in particular its concern that the construction project of the Waldschlösschen Bridge would irreversibly damage the values and integrity of the property in accordance with Paragraph 179 (b) of the Operational Guidelines,*
3. *Notes with satisfaction that the State Party invited a Reinforced Monitoring Mission to review the bridge construction project and any alternative solutions;*
4. *Also notes the report provided by the Reinforced Monitoring Mission of February 2008 confirming that the current bridge project would irreversibly damage the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property;*

OPTION 1

5. *Deeply regrets that the authorities allowed the construction works to proceed;*
6. *Considers that the work implemented has already irreversibly damaged the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property;*
7. ***Decides to delete the Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) from the World Heritage List, in conformity with Paragraphs 192-198 of the Operational Guidelines, and taking into account Decision 30 COM 7B.77.***

OPTION 2

5. *Deeply regrets that the authorities allowed the construction works to proceed;*

6. Considers that the work already implemented and planned will irreversibly damage the outstanding universal value and integrity of the property;
7. Strongly requests the State Party to immediately halt the current construction works and restore the property to its former state of conservation;
8. Strongly urges the State Party to reconsider the alternative tunnel option;
9. Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the property and requests the State Party to provide a bi-monthly progress report;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, including a progress report on the implementation of the issues above-mentioned, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009 ;
11. Also decides to retain the Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany) on the List of World Heritage in Danger, with the option of deleting this property from the World Heritage List at its 33rd session in 2009, if works on the bridge continue.

27. Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) (C 724 bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

2004, extension 2006

Criteria

(ii) (iii) (iv)

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

2006

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Lack of legal status of the property;
- b) Lack of legislative protection of buffer zones;
- c) Lack of implementation of the management plan and of active management;
- d) Difficulties to monitor the property due to political instability, post-conflict situation (visits under the Kosovo Stabilisation Force / United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (KFOR / UNMIK) escort and lack of guards and security);
- e) Unsatisfactory state of conservation and maintenance of the property.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Full and permanent protection of the property in a secure and stable political environment;

- b) Agreed medium-term plan for the restoration of wall paintings (including preventive conservation regime) and conservation and rehabilitation of the property;
- c) Implementation of the management plans, and full establishment of buffer zones and boundaries including their legal protection.

Corrective measures identified

Urgent / short-term corrective measures:

- a) Put in place appropriate guarding and security arrangements for the Church of the Virgin of Ljeviša;
- b) Prepare a conservation status report including a condition survey for the wall paintings and the status of the conservation works and take temporary measures where there is an urgent need (for example the lead roof of the west bay of the nave of the Church of Virgin of Ljeviša, that was partly removed, etc);
- c) Prepare a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the *Operational Guidelines* and Decisions **28 COM 10B.4** and **30 COM 7.2**.

Long-term corrective measures:

- d) Ensure the adequate long-term administrative, regulatory protection and management of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 97 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- e) Put in place strong protective regimes for the buffer zones;
- f) Adequately delineate the boundaries (e.g. extend the boundaries of the Patriarchate of Peć to include more of its riverside-valley settings);
- g) Prepare detailed state of conservation reports as a basis for adapted monitoring, preventative conservation measures, and specific conservation projects to reverse decline;
- h) Ensure appropriate and timely implementation of the management plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) Urgent / short-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo;
- b) Regarding the long-term corrective measures to be taken by the State Party, in co-operation with UNESCO programmes, UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in Kosovo no specific timeframe can be given at this stage due to the political situation.

Previous Committee Decisions

30 COM 8B.53; 30 COM 8B.54; 31 COM 7A.28

International Assistance

N/A

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 497,000 following the Donors Conference for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo, May 2005 ; USD 503,500 by the Italian Government, USD 75,335 by the Czech Government.

Previous monitoring missions

January 2007: UNESCO intersectoral mission to Kosovo

Main threats identified in previous reports

See above

Current conservation issues

Note: *The Secretariat was informed by the Legal Advisor that "The UNESCO Secretariat follows the practice of the United Nations, which considers that the Security Council Resolution 12.44 (1999) continues to be applicable to the territory of Kosovo until a final settlement be achieved".*

The State Party submitted a report on the situation of the property. It informed that due to the political situation, the works in the field of legal and technical protection of cultural monuments have met difficulties, due to poor safety conditions, access to the cultural sites and problems for the conservation teams. The Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments in Belgrade undertook specific efforts to prevent illegal building construction in the buffer zones.

At the Dečani monastery, in 2008, it is planned to finish the roof, works in the interior and on equipment installations. In the Patriarchate of Peć, a fencing stone wall was built, 500m long, 3m high and 60cm wide, with an entrance gate. In 2007, the Istituto Centrale per il Restauro (ICR, Rome) and an NGO (Intersos) conducted monitoring and equipment maintenance for climate control, installed in the Patriarchate churches, and collected damp data in these churches. The last monitoring was performed on 24 and 25 January 2008. The data collected for the last year show that the newly applied plaster on the façade and the drainage system installed in the summer 2006 do not manifest any impact on the climatic condition changes in the interior. A positive impact is registered in the narthex area, owing to placing a new window on the entrance wall. Reopening of the window on the north wall of the church of St Demetrius caused some changes which are to be further closely monitored. On the church of the Virgin of Ljeviša in Prizren, a lead roof, which had been stolen, was reinstalled. In order to further prevent such actions, UNMIK has arranged a guarding service. A tender procedure for lead covering of the central and side domes is complete and a contractor has been chosen. The works are to start in February 2008. The said works are conducted on the grounds of Memorandum of Understanding (2005) organised by the Reconstruction Implementation Commission (RIC).

During 2007, at the Gračanica monastery, no conservation works have been done and the state of conservation of the church and its frescoes remains unchanged.

The State Party has confirmed that a check up on the state of the Medieval monuments in Kosovo was scheduled for the first half of February 2008, with another follow-up report to be submitted.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.27

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 30 COM 8B.53, 30 COM 8B.54, and 31 COM 7A.28 adopted at its 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,*

3. Acknowledges the continuing difficulties to monitor the property due to political instability, post-conflict situation and the follow-up to the intersectoral mission of January 2007;
4. Recalls its request for a risk preparedness study, in conformity with Paragraph 118 of the Operational Guidelines and Decisions **28 COM 10B.4** and **30 COM 7.2**;
5. Also recalls its request to the State Party, in cooperation with UNESCO programmes, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Institutions of Kosovo, as well as future European arrangements to continue to take long-term corrective measures, including: ensuring adequate long-term legislative, regulatory protection and management of the property and strong protective regimes for the buffer zones; adequately delineate boundaries and the timely implementation of the management plan;
6. Reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
7. Requests the State Party, in cooperation with UNMIK, to continue its efforts in completing the short-term and long-term corrective measures to address the Desired state of conservation defined, for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit, in cooperation with UNMIK, to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2009**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;
9. Decides to retain the Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

28. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178)

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*

29. Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) (C 366)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1986

Criteria

(i) (iii)

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

1986

Threats for which the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

- a) Fragile state of conservation of earthen structures and decorated surfaces due to extreme climatic conditions (El Niño phenomena) and other environmental factors;
- b) Inadequate management system in place;
- c) Insufficient capacity and resources for the implementation of conservation measures;
- d) Increase in the levels of the phreatic water table.

Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger

The State Party is preparing a proposed Desired state of conservation that will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Corrective measures identified

- a) Full and systematic implementation of the management plan: Secure sustainable funding, abide by prescribed courses of action and policies, adhere to prescribed institutional arrangements, for the conservation, presentation and revalorization of the property;
- b) Enforce legislative and regulatory frameworks already passed by the State Party to address the issues of illegal occupations and activities at the property. Collaborate with pertinent authorities for the relocation of settlers;
- c) Broad dissemination of the management plan amongst interest groups to strengthen public and private support in its implementation;
- d) Collaboration with allied entities in defining regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and of the World Heritage Property. Precise plans of the property and its zoning need to be circulated amongst stakeholders;
- e) Physical delineation of the property: vegetation barriers, perimeter walls, etc.;

- f) Priority conservation measures: control and mitigation of water table levels, conservation of perimeter walls, backfilling of fragile areas with decorated surfaces;
- g) Development of an emergency and disaster preparedness plan.

Timeframe for the implementation of the corrective measures

- a) Secured funding for the implementation of the management plan in 2008;
- b) Functioning institutional arrangements in 2008 (as per management plan);
- c) Illegal occupations addressed and activities at the site regulated in 2009 and beyond;
- d) Emergency and risk preparedness plan in 2008;
- e) Drainage works completed by the end of 2007;
- f) Priority conservation works in 2009;
- g) Other conservation and maintenance works 2008 and beyond;
- h) Management and coordination of works carried out by other sectors in the buffer zone in 2008 and beyond.

Previous Committee Decisions

29 COM 7A.30; 30 COM 7A.32; 31 COM 7A.30

International Assistance

Total amount provided to the property: USD 48,650 for training assistance and technical cooperation. In 2005, USD 30,000 from the World Heritage Fund for the opening of a drain to lower the water table level within the property.

UNESCO extra-budgetary funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1997: ICOMOS mission; 2007: World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS and ICCROM mission

Main threats identified in previous reports

- a) Continuous deterioration of earthen architecture structures and decorated surfaces from lack of conservation and maintenance practices;
- b) Illegal occupation of the property;
- c) Unregulated farming activities;
- d) Rising water table levels;
- e) Delay in implementing protective measures (legislation and regulations already passed by the National Authorities).

Current conservation issues

The World Heritage Centre received the State Party's report on 7 February 2008, which details the progress made in implementing part of the decision taken by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) and some of the recommendations of the 2007 reactive monitoring mission . These are:

- a) *Full and systematic implementation of the management plan: Secure sustainable funding, abide by prescribed courses of action and policies, adhere to prescribed*

institutional arrangements, for the conservation, presentation and revalorization of the property:

The State Party has created a specific unit (Unidad Ejecutora 110) for the implementation of the management plan. It has allocated USD 3,300,000 in 2007 for the emergency phase and has secured a budget of USD 1,667,000 for 2008. It is foreseen that this considerable budget will continue for the next five years, so if adequately implemented it should allow a better state of conservation to be achieved.

- b) *Enforce legislative and regulatory frameworks already passed by the State Party to address the issues of illegal occupations and activities at the property. Collaborate with pertinent authorities for the relocation of settlers:*

The National Institute of Culture (INC) has continued with defence actions and coordinated with partner agencies for the recovery of the site. Regulatory measures prescribed in Law No. 28261 have yet to be approved (they have been pending for several years). Until the Law is in force, it is not possible to proceed with the relocation of illegal occupants at the property.

- c) *Broad dissemination of the management plan amongst interest groups to strengthen public and private support in its implementation:*

The State Party reports that the implementation unit has carried out a series of exhibitions and conferences to disseminate conservation endeavours. The National Institute of Culture has widely distributed the master plan's executive summary and the full text in digital format and has also set into its context every activity implemented at the site.

- d) *Collaboration with allied entities in defining regulatory measures for the management of the buffer zone and of the World Heritage property. Precise plans of the property and its zoning need to be circulated amongst stakeholders:*

The National Institute of Culture has worked on strengthening collaboration with different municipalities associated to the site. Progress has been made in coordinating regulatory measures for the buffer zone, in accordance with objectives and principles set out in the master plan. This will be included in the updated version of the Metropolitan Development Plan for Trujillo. The boundaries for the property have been revised and a new georeferenced plan is now in final revision stages.

- e) *Physical delineation of the World Heritage property: vegetation barriers, perimeter walls, etc.:*

Progress has been made in this respect, particularly the restoration of the perimeter walls.

- f) *Priority conservation measures: control and mitigation of water table levels, conservation of perimeter walls, backfilling of fragile areas with decorated surfaces:*

Interventions have been carried out in two phases: an emergency one where most pressing matters were addressed, including mitigation of water table levels, vegetation cleaning, amongst others, and a post-emergency phase, currently taking place, where actions prescribed in the management plan are now being implemented. This is expected to improve the situation assessed during the 2007 reactive monitoring mission where inappropriate projects were being implemented, including the excavation and exposure of new areas.

- g) *Development of an emergency and disaster preparedness plan:*

No progress has been reported on this recommendation.

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies remain concerned at the extent and degree of the interventions and the limited numbers of specialized technical personnel to supervise widespread conservation activities. It is critical that capacity building and technical training is considered inherently in the implementation of projects. The implementation unit

should also consider a broad technical participatory decision-making process, particularly enforcing collaboration between archaeologists, conservators and architects.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.29

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.30**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Notes the progress made by the State Party in implementing some of the corrective measures identified;*
4. *Remains concerned that protective legislation for the property is still not officially approved and in force and that the management plan has not been fully implemented;*
5. *Requests the State Party, in light of the new tourism pressures, to incorporate into the management plan, an approach to public use and visitor management;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, a draft Statement of outstanding universal value including the conditions of integrity and authenticity, and a proposal for the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2009**, a report on the progress made in implementing the corrective measures for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009;*
8. ***Decides to retain Chan Chan Archaeological Zone (Peru) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

30. Coro and its Port (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (C 658)

See Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A.Add*

GENERAL DECISION

31. World Heritage properties of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

At its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party to adopt a comprehensive approach to the conservation and monitoring of the DRC properties (Decision **31 COM 7A.32**). The World Heritage Committee also decided to recommend the application of the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to all five DRC properties and to request the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee to convene a meeting with the DRC authorities to discuss progress in addressing the deteriorating state of conservation of these properties.

Since the previous session, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN have closely followed up on developments in the five properties. A joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reinforced monitoring mission was sent to Virunga National Park, from 11 to 21 August 2007, in response to an escalation in gorilla killings, associated illegal charcoal production and a significant deterioration in the security and conservation status of this property. Details on the five properties, including on the outcomes of the mission to Virunga, are provided in the respective state of conservation reports enclosed in Document *WHC-08/32.COM/7A* (points 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8). These reports indicate that a series of common threats continue to hamper the conservation of the properties in the DRC, in particular the state of insecurity and lawlessness in and around the properties, large scale poaching and resource exploitation by armed groups, small scale illegal mining, encroachment, deforestation as well as the attribution of mining concessions. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN estimate that a high political level engagement of the Government is crucial to address these threats. To achieve this, the World Heritage Centre facilitated the preparation for a special high level meeting as requested by the World Heritage Committee, aiming to define and adopt a comprehensive national strategy to address the deterioration of the state of conservation of the properties in DRC. It was able to mobilize 75,000 Euros from the Government of the French-speaking community of Belgium for the organisation of this meeting. The organisation of the meeting was discussed with the Office of the President of the DRC and ICCN during a World Heritage Centre mission to Kinshasa in September 2007, and during a meeting held on 18 October 2007 presided by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and attended by World Heritage Committee members from Africa.

The Delegation of the DRC at the 177th session of the UNESCO Executive Board expressed its intention to host the meeting in Kinshasa and early April confirmed the date of 9 May 2008 to the Office of the Director General. However, on April 22, the State Party postponed the meeting without proposing a new date.

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN are of the view that the high level meeting should be re-scheduled as a matter of urgency. For the meeting to have a real impact, it will be crucial to ensure the participation of other relevant ministries able to exert effective control over activities within and neighbouring the property, such as the ministries in charge of mining, oil, defence and land use planning. The attendance of the Governors of the provinces in which the sites are situated is also very important. In the preparation for this meeting, the State Party is encouraged to prepare in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN an action plan to address the urgent threats to the sites mentioned above, involving all relevant agencies.

Whilst it has not been possible to organise the meeting before the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee, some progress has been made on the development of a trust fund for the DRC properties. The Government of Belgium in February 2007 announced a contribution of 1 million Euros to establish the Fund and as an initial donation to it. The World Heritage

Centre has developed together with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) a proposal for the creation of the Fund, which was presented at a stakeholder meeting on DRC forests held in London in December 2007. Several donors present at the meeting, including Belgium, Germany, France and United Kingdom expressed their interest in the proposed Fund. A first planning meeting for the trust fund is planned for June 2008, in which a roadmap and a steering committee will be agreed.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.31

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 7A.32**, adopted at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007),*
3. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to adopt a comprehensive approach to address the urgent threats to the properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) based on the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee as well as the recommendations from monitoring missions;*
4. *Regrets that the State Party has postponed the high level meeting between the authorities of DRC, the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, the Director-General of UNESCO, the President of IUCN, donors and other interested parties to identify strategies to address the on-going deterioration of the state of conservation of the five properties from DRC inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger before the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee, and urges the State Party to set a date for this meeting as soon as possible, in concertation with the Office of the Director-General of UNESCO, and the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and the office of the President of IUCN;*
5. *Notes with satisfaction the progress made in developing a trust fund for the DRC properties;*
6. ***Decides to continue to apply the Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the five properties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.***

III. IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Joint Proposal by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies responding to the World Heritage Committee's request to develop Criteria for the inclusion of those properties which are most threatened by climate change on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Background

1. At its 29th session (Durban, 2005), the World Heritage Committee noted 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. The World Heritage Committee strongly encouraged States Parties and the Advisory Bodies to use the network of World Heritage properties to highlight the threats posed by climate change to natural and cultural heritage, start identifying the properties under most serious threats, and also use the network to demonstrate management actions that need to be taken to meet such threats (Decision **29 COM 7B.a**).
2. At its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006), the World Heritage Committee considered that the decisions to include properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger because of threats resulting from climate change are to be made by the Committee, on a case-by-case basis, in consultation and cooperation with States Parties, taking into account the input from Advisory Bodies and NGOs, and consistent with the *Operational Guidelines* (paragraph 14 of Decision **30 COM 7.1**).
3. At its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), the World Heritage Committee requested the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop in consultation with States Parties criteria for the inclusion of those properties which are most threatened by climate change on the List of World Heritage in Danger, for use in prioritizing vulnerability assessment, mitigation and adaptation activities (paragraph 14 of Decision **31 COM 7.1**).
4. The present document outlines a joint proposal of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies responding to the World Heritage Committee's request. The proposal takes into account the above mentioned decisions of the World Heritage Committee, the resolution on the *Policy Document on the Impact of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties (WHC-07/16.GA/10)* adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* at its 16th session (UNESCO, 2007), as well as comments received from 19 States Parties on the draft proposal which was circulated to all States Parties on 26 February 2008.

Proposal

5. The guiding principles and procedures for considering the inclusion of World Heritage properties on the on the List of World Heritage in Danger should be those that are already specified under Chapter IV.B of the *Operational Guidelines*.

6. The specific "criteria" to be used for this purpose are listed in paragraphs 179 and 180, and some additional and supplementary factors are listed in paragraphs 181 and 182 respectively.
7. The items of "Ascertained Danger" in paragraphs 179 and 180 provide examples of the deleterious effects which various threats might have on properties, while those under "Potential Danger" relate to various threats which could have deleterious effects on properties.
8. Climate is currently mentioned as a threat only in paragraph 179(b)(vi) for cultural properties but is equally relevant to natural properties. It is proposed to reflect this through adding the words "threatening effects of climatic, geological or other environmental factors" as a new paragraph 180(b)(v). This encompasses threatening effects that may be gradual, incremental or sudden. For consistency, the same wording should also replace paragraph 179(b)(vi) for cultural properties.
9. As with any other threats, the key factors determining whether or not a property might be included on the List of World Heritage in Danger because of threats resulting from climate change are the impact which the threat is having on the outstanding universal value, integrity and/or authenticity of the property, and whether or not the requirements for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, as outlined in the *Operational Guidelines*, are met.
10. Where climate change is identified as a threat, it may not always be possible to establish clearly that an impact is actually occurring as a result of this particular factor alone. In many cases it could be the result of a combination of factors. This is important from the perspective of recommending "corrective measures". In terms of implementing "corrective measures", the key need will be to address the impact which the threat is having on the outstanding universal value, and/or integrity and/or authenticity of a property. In this regard, by taking an approach based on impact and "corrective measures", climate change would not be addressed any differently from other threats.
11. It is also proposed to clarify that the corrective measures should address both the threats and their deleterious effects on properties. Hence, in paragraph 181 it is proposed to replace "factor or factors which are threatening the integrity of the property" with "threats and/or their deleterious effects". This is because in some cases it may not be possible to correct the threats by human action (e.g. extreme weather event) while action can be taken to deal with their deleterious effects.
12. Taking into consideration paragraphs 181 to 186 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the emphasis of the corrective measures to be recommended by the World Heritage Committee should normally be on "adaptation¹" rather than "mitigation²", which is better addressed through other mechanisms such as those associated to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Besides, the recommended programme of

¹ UNFCCC definition of adaptation: Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

² UNFCCC definition of mitigation: A human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.

corrective measures should be such that it can be implemented by the States Parties concerned, if necessary with international assistance.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 7A.32

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decisions **29 COM 7B.a**, **30 COM 7.1** and **31 COM 7.1**, adopted at its 29th (Durban, 2005), 30th (Vilnius, 2006) and 31st (Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,
3. Also recalling Resolution **16 GA 10**, adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention at its 16th session (UNESCO, 2007),
4. Decides to adopt the criteria proposed for assessing properties which are most threatened by climate change for inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger, noting that the emphasis of the corrective measures to be recommended should be on “adaptation” rather than on “mitigation”;
5. Approves the following amendments to the Operational Guidelines:
 - a) Amendment to Paragraph 179 (b) (vi):

~~gradual changes due to geological, climatic or other environmental factors.~~
threatening effects of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.
 - b) New Paragraph : Paragraph 180 (b)(v):

threatening effects of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.
 - c) Amendment to Paragraph 181:

In addition, the ~~factor or factors which are threatening~~ threats and/or their deleterious effects on the integrity of the property must be those which are amenable to correction by human action. In the case of cultural properties, both natural factors and man-made factors may be threatening, while in the case of natural properties, most threats will be man-made and only very rarely a natural factor (such as an epidemic disease) will threaten the integrity of the property. In some cases, the ~~factor or factors which are threatening~~ threats and/or their deleterious effects on the integrity of the property may be corrected by administrative or legislative action, such as the cancelling of a major public works project or the improvement of legal status.