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# World Heritage

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Extended forty-fourth session**

**Fuzhou (China) / Online meeting  
16-31 July 2021**

**Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties  
inscribed on the World Heritage List**

## **SUMMARY**

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM/documents>

All previous state of conservation reports will be available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

**Decision required:** The World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

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# I. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST INITIALLY FORESEEN TO BE EXAMINED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE IN 2020

## CULTURAL PROPERTIES

### AFRICA

#### 1. Royal Palaces of Abomey (Benin) (C 323bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1985-2007

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1985-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 118,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 450,000 from the Government of Japan and from the Riksantikvaren (Norwegian Cultural Heritage Directorate); USD 50,365 through funding from the Netherlands; USD 100,000 in 2021-2022 through UNESCO/Government of Norway cooperation

#### Previous monitoring missions

May/June 2004: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/CRAterre-ENSAG/Getty Conservation Institute mission; February 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; December 2012, April 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Absence of a national legislative mechanism for the protection of cultural heritage (issue resolved in 2007, but significant again in 2020)
- Major deterioration of almost 50% of the earthen structural components (issue resolved in 2007, but significant again in 2020)
- Lack and loss of documentation on the site (issue resolved in 2007, but significant again in 2020)
- Lack of presentation and interpretation at the site
- Lack of sharing of knowledge between site managers and among authorities
- Need to distinguish between the site museum and the World Heritage site
- Lack of effective firefighting measures
- Need to improve the governance, organization and implementation of mechanisms for monitoring, coordination and involvement of the different parties concerned
- Need to revise the risk management plan as well as the plan for the management, conservation and enhancement of the property
- Need to take priority measures for the prevention of fire risks

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/>

### Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, and a further report on 22 January 2021, both of which are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/323/documents/>. Additional details were provided in a letter of 28 April 2020. These reports respond to the recommendations of the Committee as follows:

- As a result of over a dozen years of conservation work, the museum quarter (palaces of Glèlè and Ghézo) is in good state of conservation, apart from some degradations;
- Although, the majority of the structures in the remaining three quarters of the palace area were reported in 2020 as being in danger and in need of urgent protection to halt degradation, such as the roof of the tomb for the 41 wives of King Glèlè, by 2021 most of these degraded areas were reported by the State Party to have been restored;
- The previous dilapidation linked to lack of maintenance, inappropriate interventions, the fragility of materials, and to the impact of various animals living onsite is being addressed, with ruins being restored, but the property still remains vulnerable to these threats; a list of actions undertaken in 2020 was submitted;
- Significant development and illegal occupation, often induced by members of the royal family, still threaten both the property and the buffer zone, a recent example being a new construction directly next to the Dowomè Palace. Dialogue is underway between the various actors to try and find consensual solutions;
- The Management Plan has been revised for 2020-2024. In November 2019, a new management committee was installed and in order to operationalise this Plan, the State Party integrated comments from World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. Meanwhile, a Site Manager and a conservator for the Museum were also appointed;
- 50 million FCFA (appr. USD 91,000) has been granted to the Directorate of cultural heritage to accompany the implementation of the management plan for the year 2021;
- In order to address the high risk of fire, a fire hydrant has been brought back into service. A group of fire-fighters carry out inspections twice a day at the property, while a fire squad was allocated to the Palaces of Glèlè and Ghézo in March 2019. A fire break of six metres has been re-established around the buildings and will be kept clear of vegetation. A programme to address the issue of household rubbish has been initiated. On 30 January 2020, a project to develop a fire prevention plan began;
- Separately, the State Party submitted new details of the proposed museum project on 18 November 2020. An ICOMOS Technical Review of this material was submitted to the State Party on 26 January 2021 and a virtual technical meeting was organized on this subject on 2 February 2021.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has again acknowledged the vulnerabilities of many of the structures in the 10 palaces, including from inappropriate interventions, and illegal constructions in the property and buffer zone.

However, recovery approaches are now emerging through the implementation of the revised Management Plan, the appointment of two new members of management team, discussions with stakeholders, the beginning of a fire prevention plan, and the continuation and re-funding of planned conservation. All this is to be welcomed but with some caution. No response to the recommendations of the last two missions has been provided, as requested by the Committee, nor to recommendations to install a fire protection system in the main buildings and develop sustainable funding for the property's conservation.

Although work on restoring degraded areas is to be welcomed, details were not provided on how this work was undertaken or documented or on the evidence upon which it was based. This is particularly necessary for re-building where plans should be submitted for approval in order to ensure authenticity and integrity are respected. The latest report acknowledges that the Palaces remain highly vulnerable given the fragile nature of the materials with which most structures are built, and the impact of previous inappropriate interventions. However well the buildings are conserved, they can easily degrade without

regular attention, they are highly susceptible to risks such as fire, and a risk preparedness plan is still awaited.

To address this situation in the long term, the local authorities should be encouraged to develop a clear pathway or Recovery Plan to set out the scope and extent of the problems, based on surveys and research, and then processes and actions needed to address these. Much more than site-by-site interventions to physical structure are needed: recovery also needs to address planning and social issues, and ways to put the property on a sustainable footing and be supported by all stakeholders and authorities and have the involvement of necessary professional expertise. Such a Recovery Plan needs to be developed and implemented as a matter of urgency if the palaces are to keep their integrity and authenticity. The financial assistance through the UNESCO/Government of Norway cooperation could therefore be helpful in this regard.

The revised detailed documents on the museum project show that it has been extended to encompass the restoration and rehabilitation of the palaces, and a programme to support sustainable traditional and heritage training. These new elements are to be welcomed and need to be integrated into the overall Recovery Plan for the property and developed in far greater detail to ensure that reconstruction and modifications to buildings respect the OUV of the property. As for the proposed museum, although the design has been modified with lower roofs and an architectural language that respects local traditions, its size and siting in the court of the Amazons remain problematic. The footprint of the museum occupies half of the court making it unreadable as a large ceremonial open space. If the museum to be installed in the Amazon Court, it needs to be much smaller and less central and overall respect the symbolism of the space as a crucial part of the overall layout of the integrated ensemble of ten palaces. Volumetric studies need to be undertaken and submitted for review, before any further plans are developed.

On the basis of the above, it is recommended that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission be carried to the property as soon as possible to consider its state of conservation, the potential threats it is still facing, the implementation of the recommendations made by the previous mission of 2016, and the development of a Recovery Plan and its integration with the Museum project.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.1**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.103, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the revision of the Management Plan, and the appointment of a new Management Committee, a Site Manager and a conservator for the Museum and commends the State Party for undertaking firm measures against illegal occupation within property;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction that work has started on the development of a fire prevention plan, that a fire hydrant has been brought back into service and that fire breaks have been re-established, and reiterates its request to the State Party to install in the immediate future appropriate fire detection systems in the main buildings, and ensure all fire extinguishers are operable;*
5. *Notes the efforts of the State Party to initiate conservation work to rehabilitate degraded parts of the property, but expresses concern that no details have been provided to show how this work has been undertaken or justified to ensure that authenticity and integrity have been respected;*
6. *Expresses great concern that the continuing vulnerabilities of the palace remain, and that illegal development and encroachment of the property are still key issues;*

7. Welcomes the revised Management Plan and reinforcement of the management team as positive steps, but considers that they alone are not enough to achieve the fundamental changes needed to safeguard the fabric of the 10 palaces that make up the whole property, and to the governance, planning and other control processes;
8. Also notes that, if the palaces are to retain their authenticity and integrity, urgent action has to be undertaken, and requests the State Party to draft a specific Recovery Plan as a matter of urgency, and submit to the World Heritage Centre the outline of such a Recovery Plan for review by the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS and ICCROM), based on adequate surveys and research, to establish a baseline from which to measure progress, and which includes a phased and feasible programme of restoration and conservation, based on documentation and surveys, and appropriate changes in governance to allow the involvement and support of relevant stakeholders and authorities;
9. Thanks the Government of the Norway for their financial support to the property;
10. Reiterates its recommendation to the State Party to consider establishing a comprehensive strategy for the sustainable funding of the property's conservation;
11. Welcomes the extension of the Museum project to encompass the restoration and rehabilitation of the palaces, and a programme to support sustainable traditional and heritage training; and also requests the State Party to ensure that these elements are integrated into the Recovery Plan, and detailed proposals are submitted for review before they are finalised;
12. Further notes that the designs for the proposed museum have been modified with lower roofs and an architectural language that respects local traditions, but also considers that its size and siting in the court of the Amazons remain problematic as its footprint occupies half the court making it unreadable as a large ceremonial open space, and further requests the State Party to re-locate the building or make it much smaller and less dominant, and to submit volumetric studies for review before any further detailed plans are developed for the Amazon court;
13. Requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as soon as possible to consider its state of conservation and the potential threats it is facing, to assess the implementation of the recommendations made by the previous mission of 2016, and to formulate, in consultation with the State Party, concrete recommendations, including on the issues to be addressed in the Recovery Plan;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 2. Historic Town of Grand-Bassam (Côte d'Ivoire) (C 1322rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2012-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 5,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 57,734 from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement; USD 106,400 from the government of Norway in 2020

### Previous monitoring missions

2013 and 2014: Technical assistance missions in the framework of the Convention France-UNESCO for management in 2013 and restoration of the ancient Palace of Justice in 2014 ; Technical Assistance mission for the AfriCAP2016 project financed by the European Union in the framework of the ACP Cultures+ Programme; 2019: Emergency mission of UNESCO experts following the floods that occurred on the site in October 2019 financed by the Emergency Heritage Fund

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management system to be strengthened (need to specify the limits of the property for the land parts by following the cadastral limits, to extend the limits of the unified buffer zone at the level of the Petit Paris district and the lighthouse, to strengthen the practical and operational dimension of the Conservation and Management Plan for the property, to define operational monitoring indicators corresponding to precise, periodic and quantified actions)
- Legal framework to be strengthened (need to clarify the situation of land ownership)
- Insufficient human resources (need to strengthen and specify the human resources available to the Local Committee and/or the House of Cultural Heritage)
- Management activities to be strengthened (need to inscribe all the "buildings of heritage interest" of the property on the National Cultural Heritage List, to confirm the suspensive role of the opinions of the House of Cultural Heritage in the functioning of the Building Permits Commission of Grand-Bassam, for the conservation of the property, to confirm incentives for the restoration and conservation of private buildings)
- Insufficient financial resources

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/>

### Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2020, following the floods of October 2019 and in response to the letter from the World Heritage Centre of 8 November 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1322/documents/> and informing that:

- In October 2019, heavy rainfall causing flooding of the Comoé River and its tributaries (Ebrié and Ouladine lagoons) caused flooding affecting the village of N'zima and producing material damage;
- The State Party has put in place a crisis management system, launched work to reopen the mouth of the river, relocated the affected populations, and submitted a request for assistance to UNESCO for an emergency mission under the Heritage Emergency Fund;
- The observed impact of the floods on the property is, in particular:

- The architecture was the most affected, with 17 historic monuments inundated and the foundations and terraces fully submerged, making regular monitoring and a comprehensive restoration plan necessary once the waters have receded,
- The environmental and landscape value at the lagoon has been affected (reduction of navigation and fishing activities), as has the site of the river mouth (its obstruction aggravating the resurgence of floods),
- The celebration of Abissa was twice postponed and its sacred grove was flooded. The N'zima community responded to the crisis with traditional management through rituals aimed at initiating the recession of the waters of the Ouladine lagoon;
- Malfunctions in the management of the property are expressed in particular by the acceleration of the degradation of heritage buildings, delays in the restoration of emblematic buildings, and non-compliance with construction procedures;
- Public/private partnerships for the restoration of buildings are encouraged, as with Société Générale (transformation of the former post and customs hotel into a space dedicated to art with the partner's commitment to restore and maintain it, financial support for the rehabilitation of a historic building which will house the Cultural Heritage House);
- The updating of the Conservation and Management Plan for the property, including a disaster risk management plan, is underway;
- An action plan has been prepared by UNESCO to support the State Party in its new strategy for the development and conservation of the town.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

In addition to the State Party report, this analysis is based on that of the emergency mission of November 2019 (submitted in March 2020), which explains the origin of the floods of October 2019 and assesses their impacts.

Although the floods did not affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, they nevertheless highlighted weaknesses inherent in its conservation and management, in particular risk management.

The responsiveness of the State Party following the floods is to be welcomed, in particular by putting in place a crisis management system, relocating the affected populations and requesting the organization of a UNESCO emergency mission. The reopening of the mouth of the Comoé River, initiated on 11 November 2019, is very timely.

This project is part of the Safeguarding and Enhancement of the Cocody Bay and Ebrié Lagoon project (PABC), financed by the State Party with the support of donors. It is regrettable that this project, which may affect the OUV of the property, was not previously presented to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. It includes in particular the construction of dikes which, although providing a solution to flooding, could affect the ecosystem of the property and its environmental and landscape qualities. It is recommended that the State Party submit the project to the World Heritage Centre in order to adapt the approach to the recommendations of the mission report, in particular for the dikes project, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies. Furthermore, according to the mission report, the civil engineering work also planned by the PABC would have a height that could cause a break in scale with that of the houses in the non-parceled-out area of the village located nearby. It should be the subject of a visual and heritage impact study.

The degradation of several heritage buildings is worrying, such as the courthouse, the lighthouse or the former post and customs hotel. Cooperation initiatives taken for the restoration of heritage, in particular through public/private partnership agreements, are welcomed, but they must be planned in such a way as to favour grouped operations, and reinforced by actions such as consolidating and updating the inventory of existing heritage, establishing in-depth architectural and cultural diagnoses, strengthening the monitoring and control of town planning and construction rules and the application of regulations by all actors, capacity building of professionals and establishment of a monitoring committee for restoration work.

These actions must be coordinated by the Heritage House, the main body for the management of the property, to which it is important to give more resources and to relocate in a heritage building, giving it an emblematic and exemplary character. In addition, the draft revision of the conservation and

management plan (including a risk management plan) is to be welcomed and its prompt finalization encouraged.

It should be noted that the Government of Norway has approved funding of USD 106,400 for a programme to support the preservation of the site, including in particular the inventory work, the finalization of the management plan and the revision and publication of an interventions guide on the site. These measures, in addition to strengthening the management and conservation of the property, are expected to improve the disaster risk management.

Finally, the crisis has demonstrated the strength of the intangible heritage of the N'zima as a vector of resilience to be safeguarded and promoted.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.2**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 7B.67**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's reactivity following the floods, by putting in place a crisis management system, by relocating the affected populations and by requesting the organization of a UNESCO emergency mission;*
4. *Notes the implementation of the project to reopen the Comoé River as part of the project to safeguard and enhance the Cocody bay and the Ebrié lagoon (PABC), regrets that this project was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests the State Party to submit the PABC to the World Heritage Centre, as soon as possible, for review by the Advisory Bodies so that solutions can be found to adapt the approach to the recommendations provided in the report of the emergency mission of October 2019, and more particularly to:*
  - a) *Submit to the World Heritage Centre, before any intervention, the dykes project with its different height scenarios for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies,*
  - b) *Carry out a visual and heritage impact study of the civil engineering project planned for a height of 6 metres;*
5. *Expresses its deep concern at the acceleration of the degradation of the state of conservation of several heritage buildings, including the courthouse, the lighthouse and the former post and customs hotel and, while welcoming the cooperation initiatives taken by the State Party in favour of heritage restoration, in particular through public/private partnership agreements, also requests the State Party to:*
  - a) *Consider these initiatives in a planned manner, with particular emphasis on group operations,*
  - b) *Strengthen these initiatives by:*
    - (i) *Consolidation and updating of the inventory of existing heritage,*
    - (ii) *Establishment of in-depth architectural and cultural diagnoses,*
    - (iii) *Strengthening of the monitoring and control of town planning and construction rules and the application of regulations by all concerned public and private actors,*
    - (iv) *Capacity building for heritage and construction professionals,*

- (v) *Establishment of a monitoring committee for restoration work;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to strengthen the management of the site, by giving more resources to the Heritage House and to relocate it in a heritage building, thus giving it an emblematic and exemplary character at the heart of the site;*
  7. *Also welcomes the draft revision of the conservation and management plan (including a risk management plan) and encourages the State Party to finalize it;*
  8. *Thanks the Government of Norway for its financial support for the implementation of a support programme for the preservation of the property, which includes in particular the inventory work, the finalization of the management plan, the revision and publication of an interventions guide on the property and the establishment of a monitoring committee for restoration work;*
  9. *Also encourages the State Party to strengthen measures to safeguard and promote the intangible heritage of the N'zima community;*
  10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session, in 2023.*

### 3. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1996-1996)

Total amount approved: USD 2,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 5.07 million by the Italian Funds-in-Trust for the "Aksum Archaeological Site Improvement Project: Preparatory studies for the reinstallation of the Obelisk and capacity building for archaeological conservation - Phase 1", "Reinstallation of the Obelisk - Phase 2" and "Consolidation of Stele III"

#### Previous monitoring missions

November 1998: ICCROM reappraisal mission for the World Bank; 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009: missions of the World Heritage Centre and experts for the implementation of the Obelisk project; February 2010 and January 2013: Joint Reactive Monitoring missions World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS; February 2016: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient delimitation of this serial property
- Lack of conservation and management plans
- Lack of appropriate urban planning and building regulations
- Urban encroachment and inappropriate new developments



- Rising water level / seepage
- Structural instability of Stele III and Mausoleum
- Lack of progress on Church Museum construction
- Housing
- Interpretative and visitation facilities

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1455/documents>. This report was preceded by a progress report dated 31 January 2019. These reports provide information on the progress achieved with the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018), as follows:

- The Management Plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2017 and was then revised and updated after reception of the June 2018 ICOMOS technical review, including by integrating the 2010 Thematic Master Plan into the Management Plan, and resubmitted to the World Heritage Centre in February 2019;
- A governmental regulation has established a state cadastre of the property and buffer zone boundaries, which lists GPS points along the boundaries of the property. The State Party is working towards creating a cadastre system containing maps of the property, which should have been completed in 2019;
- Technical designs and working documents for the consolidation of Stele III were developed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The subsequent ICOMOS technical review has been forwarded to the consultants for their consideration in the implementation of the project. A contractor has been engaged to execute the project;
- An International Assistance request was submitted in October 2018 to co-finance a capacity building project;
- A site office was established in the property, staffed by a site manager, a conservation specialist and an interpretation officer. Staffing and expertise will be expanded in future;
- An Advisory Committee consisting of wide range of stakeholders was legally constituted in May 2018. This Committee, chaired by the mayor of Aksum, meets every three months and reports directly to the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCCH) through the site manager.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party reports progress on issues relating to the management system and maintenance of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies have been engaged to assist in developing an appropriate Management Plan for the property and in the consolidation of Stele III.

The 2013 joint UNESCO World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and 2016 ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission both recommended that the 2007 Master Plan, the 2010 Thematic Master Plan and the 2016 Structure Plan be assessed through full Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) before their further implementation, but these recommendations have not been executed. The 2016 Structure Plan also remains to be submitted. The relationship between the 2016 Structure Plan and the 2010 Thematic Master Plan remains unclear. Some requests by the Committee for submission of information remain outstanding, and some of the 2013 and 2016 mission recommendations also remain unaddressed. For example, no further information has been provided to the World Heritage Centre on archaeological attributes discovered during the construction of the Church Museum, as requested by the Committee in 2015. It should be recalled that the Committee in 2013 adopted the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation: "*Mitigation is required in the design of the west front of the office/laboratory block, to make it appear less than a pragmatic piece of architecture and to be more abstract – this can be achieved through articulating the façade as 'one' element e.g. with light filigree screening*".

The long delay in completing the Church Museum means that the concerns raised by the 2013 mission regarding the safeguarding of the Church Museum collection remain to be urgently addressed. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit a list of current and planned projects in the property and its buffer zone, along with appropriate HIAs.

Regrettably, the State Party has promulgated boundaries for the property and its buffer zone before these boundaries could be reviewed by the World Heritage Centre, and without submitting a minor boundary modification request, in conformity with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, as requested by the Committee in 2013 and 2015. The World Heritage Centre is still awaiting the submission of detailed maps of the boundaries of the property as per Committee requests in 2013, 2015 and 2018.

ICOMOS' technical review of the consolidation proposal for Stele III concluded that it was a high-risk operation that could directly negatively impact the property's OUV, especially due to the already ascertained structural weakness of the proximate Tomb of the Brick Arches. ICOMOS recommended the State Party to augment the project design to include an independent monitoring programme, and advised that more information be submitted for review before the implementation of the project. Proposals for the stabilisation of the Mausoleum and to address the groundwater problems in the Tomb of the Brick Arches were also reviewed. In all cases, it was advised that the State Party provide additional information and augment the submitted documentation.

Finally, the armed conflict in the Tigray region that began in November 2020, gave cause for preoccupations that the property could be affected. In response to this crisis, it is appreciated that UNESCO mobilized all relevant culture Conventions to monitor the situation on the ground in close consultation with the UNESCO Field Office in Addis Ababa and the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) of Ethiopia. That no damage, destruction or looting has been confirmed at cultural heritage sites in Aksum, is noted with relief. However, in light of various third-party information received by the Secretariat of looting, destruction and potential threats to movable properties such as relics, crucifixes or ancient manuscripts, it is strongly recommended that the State Party:

- Assess in detail, and in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Secretariats of all relevant UNESCO Culture Conventions, the impact of the conflict on the cultural heritage of the Tigray region, and in particular on the conservation and management of the property,
- Ensure the safeguarding of the property through protective measures,
- Engage, where necessary, in undertaking an emergency response through targeted actions, including by creating a full inventory of cultural heritage objects of the property and their state of conservation.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.3**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.43**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the establishment of the Advisory Committee for the management of the property as well as the State Party's actions in planning capacity building for the site management;
4. Also welcomes the State Party's continued engagement with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on technical matters and requests the State Party to continue this approach regarding the consolidation of the Stele III, the structural stabilisation of the Mausoleum and Tomb of the Brick Arches, and in addressing the ground water problem in the Tomb of the Brick Arches, and also requests the State Party to submit all documentation for the proposed interventions to the World Heritage Centre, and to only commence with implementation of these projects once full agreement on technical

details and monitoring protocols has been reached with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

5. Notes the State Party's reported progress in defining the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone and in providing a legislative context defining the conservation area, and urges the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification and detailed maps indicating the proposed property and buffer zone boundaries, as previously requested, and in conformity with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Remains concerned about the management of the property and the impact of development projects in its setting, and also urges the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies:
  - a) The 2016 Structure Plan,
  - b) The Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for both the 2010 Thematic Master Plan and 2016 Structure Plan that assesses their impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and a document clarifying the relationship between these plans,
  - c) An updated timeline for the completion of the Church Museum, including the submission of the requested minor façade modification design, a report on the archaeological features uncovered during the excavation and construction of the Church Museum, and details on the conservation of the Church Museum collection,
  - d) A report on the activities and accomplishments of the Advisory Committee and site management, specifically relating to the implementation of the Management Plan for the property,
  - e) Details of all current and potential developments within the property and the buffer zone, together with appropriate HIAs, including for the developments commented upon by the 2016 mission, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Further requests the State Party to develop an Action Plan with timelines for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 and 2016 missions and previous decisions of the Committee, and to submit, by **1 February 2022**, an electronic copy of this Action Plan, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Requests that, in light of various accounts of reports on looting, destruction and damage in the Tigray region, the State Party:
  - a) Assesses in detail, and in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Secretariats of all relevant UNESCO Culture Conventions, the impact of the conflict on the cultural heritage of the region, and in particular on the conservation and management of the property,
  - b) Ensures the safeguarding of the property through protective measures,
  - c) Engages, where necessary, in undertaking an emergency response through targeted actions, including by creating a full inventory of cultural heritage objects of the property and their state of conservation;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, a progress report notably on the assessment of the impact of the recent conflict on cultural heritage in the Tigray region and on the protective measures taken, and by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

#### **4. Lower Valley of the Omo (Ethiopia) (C 17)**

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1996-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 17,018

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 400,000 euros from European Union (project launched in 2016)

##### Previous monitoring missions

April 2015: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Development projects
- Housing
- Industrial areas
- Land conversion
- Absence of established boundary

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/17/>

##### Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/180126>, which presents the current situation in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its 42nd session, as follows:

- Details on the ancillary development activities near the property linked to the main project have been indicated in a map submitted in 2018. Due to the reduction of the size of Karaz Sugar Development Project (KSDP), the number of the associated factories are reduced and road networks decreased. Only 300 ha of land are designated for the construction of factories and camps. 1.076 houses are built and 2.610 Kilometre access roads will be constructed;
- In view of a major decision to hand over the KSDP to private sector, a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been commissioned and its report is expected in January 2020. The State Party has requested an extension of the timeline for the submission of the EIA over KSDP;
- With the outcome of the new EIA, the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) conducted in 2017 will be augmented and updated;
- Concerning the proposal for boundaries being carried out under EU-funded project, the State Party is working towards the creation of the cadastre system and digital maps of the property and its buffer zone to be submitted for approval;
- A draft Management Plan (developed under EU-funded project) has been submitted in 2019 for which feedback has been provided. The State Party is currently in the process of integrating the feedback received in November 2019 from the Advisory Bodies and finalising the Plan.

### Analysis and Conclusion

With regard to the details of the ancillary development activities requested by the Committee, the State Party refers to the detailed map provided in 2018 and suggests that the project will have less impact on the World Heritage Site because from 100 000 ha of the KSDP only 42 000ha of the project is located near the Site. In addition, the scope of the of KSDP and the number of the associated factories have been reduced and finally the 300 ha of land for construction are very far (35 Km) from the Site with a buffer zone area free of industrial activities. But no further details have been provided such as the alignment of the feeder roads and how these relate to the property and its setting. The Impact of these activities cannot be assessed without these details and outcome of the EIA and the updated and augmented HIA.

Instead of revisiting/improving the EIA and the HIA, as requested by the Committee, the State Party has instituted a completely new EIA. This has been based on a new strategic decision taken by the government to hand over the Sugar Plantation project to the private sector. With this major change in mind, and prior to transmission of the project to the private sector, the government has commissioned a new and comprehensive Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) from an independent consultant. This report, which was due end of January 2020, is yet to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. In this regard, the State Party of Ethiopia makes no reference to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which was to assess potential impacts of the Gibe III dam and Kuraz project on the Lake Turkana basin, for which, the State Party of Kenya informed the World Heritage Centre by letter of 23 June 2017 that the SEA would not be ready by the February 2018 deadline, as requested in Decision **39 COM 7B.4**. It has given however assurances that no new activities will be carried out until the EIA is completed. Pending the outcome of this review, the State Party has also delayed the update and augmentation of the HIA submitted earlier on which ICOMOS has provided a technical review in 2017. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to provide these details without further delay.

Although the State Party has made some progress with regard to the boundaries, it is regrettable that a draft proposal has not been completed and submitted for review, as requested by the Committee. It is reported that a buffer zone, free of ancillary development activities has been created between the property and the development activities in the area, but no details have been provided as to its scope and extent and these cannot be precisely defined in advance of the property boundaries being finalised and approved.

Progress has been made with regard to the development of the Management Plan and a draft was submitted in 2019, on which the State Party received a feedback in November 2019. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to finalise the Management Plan taking into consideration the feedback provided and start its implementation.

Although the last two Committee decisions (**41 COM 7B.68** and **42 COM 7B.44**) did not address the issue of the Strategic Impact Assessment (SEA) to assess the potential impact of KSDP and its development activities on the Lake Turkana basin, requested from the States Parties of Ethiopia and Kenya since 2012 (Decisions **36 COM 7B.3**, **39 COM 7B.4** and **40 COM 7B.80**), it is regrettable that the State Party has not provided any information. It is important that the States Parties of Ethiopia and Kenya are continuing their dialogue to undertake this long-overdue SEA, without further delay.

### Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.4

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.68** and **42 COM 7B.44**, adopted at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the updated information on the Kuraz Sugar Development project (KSDP) submitted by the State Party and notes that substantial progress has not been made;*

4. *Notes that quantitative details have been provided on ancillary development near the property linked to the main project, but in order to assess their impacts on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and requests the State Party to submit the full details together with the outcomes of the new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the updated Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA);*
5. *Regrets that that a draft proposal for boundary delineation that is being developed as part of the EU-funded projects has not been completed and submitted for review, as requested by the Committee, and urges the State Party to give priority to this crucial element that is needed to inform the Management Plan and the development of a buffer zone and to submit draft boundary proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decisions are made;*
6. *Also notes that a new Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been commissioned and that its outcome was due in January 2020, and also requests the State Party to submit the report, together with the community consultation processes that have been followed, without further delay to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to update and augment the HIA taking into account new ancillary developments and their impacts on OUV of the property and ICOMOS' Technical Review of November 2017;*
8. *Further notes progress with the development of the EU-funded Management Plan and requests furthermore the State Party to finalize the Plan based on feedback received, obtain approval from relevant authorities and start implementation;*
9. *Also urges the State Party, in collaboration with the State Party of Kenya, to progress the development of a Strategic Impact Assessment (SEA) for assessing the potential impacts of the KSDP and its development activities on the Lake Turkana basin, as requested by the Committee since 2012;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, an updated report by **1 December 2022**, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023.*

**5. Forts and Castles, Volta, Greater Accra, Central and Western Regions (Ghana)  
(C 34)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 145,086

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 26,770 provided in 2007 by the Australia Trust Fund for the project "Cleaning Ussher Fort; USD 49,261 received in 2007 by the European Commission for the project "External Works for the Restoration and Redevelopment of Parts of Ussher Fort"; USD 33,593 provided in 2019 by the UNESCO / Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the project "The rehabilitation of Ussher Fort Slave Museum and Documentary Centre".

### Previous monitoring missions

April/May 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission; February 2020: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission.

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Erosion (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Housing, (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Commercial development
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Illegal construction
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Ground Water Pollution
- Solid waste
- Management systems/management plan (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Legal Framework
- Financial resources
- Heavy rain (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Wind (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Changes to oceanic waters
- Salt-laden atmosphere (issue resolved in 1998 but significant again in 2019)
- Lack of maintenance of built fabric

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/>

### Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in February 2020 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/34/documents>). Subsequently, on 4 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, followed by a supplementary report from the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board (GMMB) submitted on 6 February 2020, both of which are also available at the above-mentioned address, and respond to the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee as follows:

- The GMMB has implemented a three-phased strategy to address the 14 recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission. Phase 1 consists of emergency inspections of all components of the property, the creation of a stakeholder database, and the assessment of past developments on the integrity, authenticity and Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property; Phase 2 focuses on stakeholder engagement including governmental agencies, at all property components; and Phase 3 will involve preparation for compiling a management plan for the property, including cadastral surveys, which have not yet been carried out, as a basis for boundary delineation;
- Development and sanitation around the property's components is of major concern, even where components are in a fairly good state of conservation. Specific development projects are mentioned such as the Fort Amsterdam project, for which an engineering survey has been undertaken; the Elmina Bay Heritage Project, for which the GMMB is still awaiting submission of details; and the redevelopment of the Ussher Fort Museum which is ongoing;
- The GMMB and the Ghana Survey Department have initiated visits to all the sites with a view to delineating boundaries (buffer zones);
- Factors negatively affecting the property include environmental pressures, lack of delineated buffer zones, development pressures, inadequate funding, lack of skilled personnel, the absence of a management system or plan, and a lack of research and documentation;

The GMMB report provides additional information, including that the State Party has allocated funding to address challenges at the property; initiated the process to establish a Heritage Fund, which will provide for the financial means to manage the property and other heritage resources in the country; initiated the process to enact new legislation entitled the Culture and Heritage Development Act; and approved an increase in the number of GMMB staff, with 60 new appointments.

In June 2020, the State Party submitted documentation outlining the Fort Amsterdam consolidation project to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The response of the State Party to the recommendations of the 2019 Advisory mission is commendable, including the efficiency with which the GMMB has undertaken an evaluation of the various components of the property, the State Party's funding commitments, and the initiative to establish the Heritage Fund, as well as the commitment to increase the staffing of the GMMB.

The 2020 mission presented the manifold challenges faced by this serial property. The need to define the boundaries of each component and delineate a buffer zone for each is a deficiency in the property's management system that was already identified in 1996 (**CONF 202 IV.7**) and 1998 (**CONF 203 VII.35**). To address this, it is recommended that the State Party engage the assistance of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission reported that components of the property are continuously decaying. It highlighted the high urgency of securing components of the property and implementing immediate remedial actions to the structurally weak elements. It further underlined the continuing encroachment by informal settlements and the lack of a management system to ensure the maintenance of the property's OUV. Construction projects at some components may have a further negative impact on the OUV. The State Party has halted a number of planned projects until these have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, but the mission reported that the James Town Fishing Harbour project is proceeding, although no information has been provided to the World Heritage Centre as recommended by the 2019 mission.

The 2020 mission observed a general lack of coordination between the GMMB and other government entities. A new parking area with landscaping was created by the Ghana Tourism Authority at St George Castle at Elmina and Fort St Anthony at Axim, potentially impacting on archaeological attributes, despite this not having been authorised by the GMMB. A National Heritage Committee, which will bring together governmental bodies and universities, is being created; its statutes are under development. The management plan review, funded through International Assistance, was initiated at the time of the 2020 mission. The new Management Plan should aim to streamline governmental coordination and improve stakeholder involvement.

Noting the brevity of the reports submitted, it is recommended that the Committee request more information to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre on:

- The consultation meetings with communities, chiefs and protocol leaders;
- The work on boundaries and buffer zones;
- The current status of the Fort Amsterdam, Elmina Heritage Bay, and James Town Fishing Harbour projects before further implementation is undertaken, and a report on other already undertaken activities, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- The Heritage Fund and the Culture and Heritage Development Act.

Further, information was submitted by the State Party in June 2020 regarding the project "Fort Amsterdam Restoration for the Activation of Tourism in Ghana". This was assessed by ICOMOS in a July 2020 Technical Review, which provided several recommendations to be considered by the State Party. Unfortunately, in December 2020, the State Party and the World Heritage Centre were informed that the European Union (EU) support for the project was cancelled, although the reasons for this remain unclear.

Ongoing activities to protect from coastal erosion, although generally beneficial, appear nevertheless to be of additional concern. At Fort Fredensborg at Old Ningo, classified as 'ruins with visible structures', such interventions caused the collapse of a wall and the removal of part of another element next to the main structure on the site. A letter sent to GMMB by the UNESCO Accra Office on 25 February 2021 inquiring on the incident, prompted the GMMB to send a situation report on 25 March 2021. This reaction



is appreciated. The report informs that the site is used as a site office by the works contractor undertaking the sea defence wall construction, and the site has been filled with large rock boulders and gravels to make the sandy ground compact for heavy duty trucks to navigate through the site to the seashore, with potential detrimental impact on archaeological attributes. While the report states that GMMB is closely monitoring the situation on the ground, the State Party should be asked to halt the intervention and to consider relocating the site office and the equipment installed and further secure the full area formerly occupied by the fort by fully closing it for the trucks and conduct a conditions survey, including identifying all attributes displaced during these operations. With reference to this incident, the State Party should be encouraged to urgently address the integration of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), together with protective measures at that site, and ensure close monitoring at other components as well that are facing similar issues.

The 2020 mission reports that the combinations of threats and factors impacting each component be considered as a major threat to the OUV of the property, that warrants the urgent implementation of remedial actions. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to urgently develop an action plan, with timelines, to address the deteriorating state of conservation of the property and improve local awareness of its international significance. The Committee may also wish to request the State Party to invite another joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in early 2023 to assess the execution of the action plan, the state of conservation of all the components of the property and the implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 mission.

Finally, given the lack of research on the property's components, and of coordinated interpretation and presentation of the entire property, it is crucial to develop an inventory that compiles documentation and information critical to the maintenance, restoration, and interpretation of the property and its components. The State Party should be encouraged to establish partnerships with national and international universities and experts for enhanced interpretation and presentation of the property, and to engage actively in UNESCO's Slave Route Project to further research and international cooperation.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.5**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.106, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Acknowledges the State Party's efforts to address the recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission, as well as the allocation of funds for conservation, the increase in staffing of the Ghana Museums and Monuments Board to address the challenges faced in the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and the creation of a Heritage Fund;*
4. *Notes the conclusions of the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission that the combinations of threats and factors impacting each component of the property is considered a major threat to the OUV of the property that warrants the urgent implementation of remedial actions;*
5. *Also notes the recommendations of the 2020 mission, and requests the State Party to implement them without delay;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to develop an action plan with timelines, submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and consequently implement it, including:*
  - a) *Undertaking an urgent structural survey of the various components of the property, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies*

and undertake, where necessary, emergency remedial structural interventions to safeguard the integrity of all the components of this property,

- b) Establishing a close monitoring programme at all components of the property,
- c) Establishing a protocol for the delineation of the boundaries of the components and their individual buffer zones as a matter of urgency, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, following which the delineation of the boundaries and buffer zones should be completed as a matter of urgency and submitted to the World Heritage Centre,
- d) Establishing a programme to engender more local awareness of the international significance of the property;

7. Further requests the State Party to:

- a) Complete with urgency the Management Plan, including mechanisms for inter-governmental coordination and stakeholder consultation, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
- b) Submit the statutes for the new National Heritage Committee and the new Culture and Heritage Development Act to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, following which their approval and implementation should be expedited,
- c) Submit details of the work carried out at St George Castle at Elmina and Fort St Anthony at Axim to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation,
- d) Halt the James Town Fishing Harbour project and carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the project, in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, with a specific section focusing on the potential impact of the project on the OUV, and submit this HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before further implementation of this project,
- e) Carry out Environmental Impact Assessments, HIAs, and/or Strategic Environmental Assessments as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around the components of the property in conformity with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and create legislative or management mechanisms to this effect;

8. Takes note of the construction of the sea defence wall at Fort Fredensborg at Old Ningo which caused the collapse of part of the remaining ruins and compaction of geological layers with potential detrimental impacts on archaeological attributes, and requests furthermore the State Party to halt the intervention and to consider relocating the site office and the equipment installed, to further secure the site by fully closing it for the trucks, and further encourages the State Party to conduct a conditions survey and take protective and remedial measures at Fort Fredensborg;

9. Invites the State Party, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to inform it, through its Secretariat, of any major restorations or new constructions which may affect the OUV of the property;

10. Also invites the State Party to expedite the development of an inventory that should compile documentation and information critical to the maintenance, restoration, and interpretation of the Forts and Castles, with the participation of national and international universities and experts to identify interpretation and presentation opportunities of the

property, and encourages the State Party to consider engaging actively in UNESCO's Slave Route Project to further research and international cooperation to that effect;

11. Requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in early 2023 to assess the state of conservation of all the components of the property, progress in the development and implementation of the action plan, implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 mission, in particular progress in the delineation and protection of buffer zones and the advancement on the preparation and implementation of the Management Plan;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, a progress report, and by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 6. Lamu Old Town (Kenya) (C 1055)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## 7. Thimlich Ohinga Archaeological Site (Kenya) (C 1450)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2018

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1450/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2010-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 29,990

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1450/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription:

- Need to expand the property boundary at the south-eastern end of the property
- Lack of exact demarcation of the extended buffer zone
- Lack of an indicator-based monitoring system

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1450/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 16 January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1450/documents/>, and provides the following information:

- The State Party is currently working to acquire land in order to extend the property boundary at the south-eastern end of the property, and expects to complete this process in 2020. Activities to date have included negotiations with land owners, survey and mapping;
- Work to define and legally approve the exact demarcation of the buffer zone will be undertaken once the land acquisition for the property extension is completed;
- A database has been established at the National Museums of Kenya Archaeology Laboratory in Nairobi, and archaeological documentation has been included using a single accession number for the property. Links to publications and reports are included;
- A monitoring system has been established and is being implemented. Data is collected through collaborations between the National Museums of Kenya, the Migori County Government, and quarterly reports prepared by the Site Manager.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The efforts undertaken by the State Party to respond to the Committee's recommendations in Decision **42 COM 8B.14** are acknowledged. Work is continuing in relation to the recommendations concerning the extension of the boundary and precise delineation of the buffer zone. The State Party is advancing these through the acquisition of land for public purposes, which is expected to be completed in 2020. The process of acquiring the land is understood to involve careful and thorough processes of documentation and negotiation. In welcoming progress towards the recommended extension of the property boundary, it is noted that the ICOMOS evaluation of the nomination stated that property ownership was not a pre-requisite for extending the property, and that inclusion of areas outside of State ownership could also meet the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee, given that there is an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Museums of Kenya and the local landowners. In line with the 'Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective in the Processes of the World Heritage Convention' (2015), it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue ensuring that the rights of communities are respected in the processes of land acquisition.

Good progress has been made to collect all archaeological materials, information and reports for Thimlich Ohinga in a single database maintained by the National Museums of Kenya. The ability to access and use these resources will be of benefit to the long-term management and decision-making of the property. It is noted that there is no mention of the inclusion of other information recommended by ICOMOS, such as associated oral traditions and records of conservation actions.

The advice that a monitoring system (including regular reports from the Site Manager) has been established is welcomed, as is the report that the needed agreements between the County Government of Migori and the National Museums of Kenya are being established. No details of the monitoring system have been received, and it is recommended to emphasize to the State Party the need for the indicators and measurements to be tied to the condition of the tangible and intangible attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to be practical, measurable, sustainable and relevant for the long-term monitoring requirements of World Heritage properties.

Finally, it is reported that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) will be undertaken in relation to all 'infrastructural developments' in or near the property prior to any approvals, but that none have been proposed since the inscription of the property. It is noted that the intent of the Committee's recommendation included plans for new infrastructure, including tourism facilities (e.g. eco-lodge, camping site and picnic areas), and therefore the State Party should be urged to implement their commitment to HIA across this breadth of possible developments.

## **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.7**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 8B.14**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the information provided by the State Party concerning progress made to extend the property boundary at its south-eastern end near the entrance of Koketch, and that processes for land acquisition are expected for completion in 2020, and encourages the State Party to ensure that the rights of communities are respected in the processes of land acquisition;
4. Notes that defining and legally approving the exact demarcation of the buffer zone will be undertaken following the completion of the extension of the property boundary;
5. Also encourages the State Party to continue to incorporate information on the cultural values of the property in the database maintained by the National Museums of Kenya, including associated oral traditions and conservation actions;
6. Further encourages the State Party to continue to implement the monitoring system for the property, including indicators associated with visitor management issues, and invites it to provide details about the selection of indicators and reporting methodology to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests the State Party to ensure that all planned projects or works, including infrastructure to support tourism, are subject to Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties (2011), and that information on any planned projects that could have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is forwarded to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## **8. Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) (C 599)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1994-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 233,140

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: For the rehabilitation of the Saint Sebastian Fortress: USD 1,108,078 by Japan Funds in Trust; USD 526,015 by UCCLA; USD 397,122 by Portugal/IPAD; USD 270,000 by Flanders Funds in Trust; USD 729,729 by the Netherlands Funds in Trust. For other conservation and management projects: USD 50,000 by World Heritage Cities Programme (Netherlands); USD 89,000 by IPAD; USD 23,175 by Africa 2009; USD 13,450 by the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF); USD 42,000 by One UN Fund in 2017-2018

### Previous monitoring missions

2005, 2006, 2007, 2008: World Heritage Centre missions; February 2007: ICOMOS mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2010: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management and Conservation Plan not yet finalized
- Growing number of collapsed or seriously dilapidated buildings
- Threats to authenticity through inappropriate repairs
- Lack of development control
- Lack of adequate sewage and water systems
- Lack of adequate financial and human resources
- Accelerated building deterioration due to rising risks (e.g. 2019 Cyclones)
- Climate Change

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/599/documents>, which reports on the progress achieved with the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018), as follows:

- The Management and Conservation Plan of Island of Mozambique (2018-2024)(MCPIM), which incorporates disaster risk management and the new buffer zone delimitation including the remaining underwater archaeological heritage alongside marine ecosystems, has been finalized and is awaiting governmental approval;
- A proposal to amend the Island of Mozambique Conservation Office (GACIM)'s statute to give the institution more authority regarding the development control within the property has been submitted to the national authorities for approval;
- Efforts are being made to strengthen GACIM's capacities through new staff recruitment and capacity building;
- Building conservation and technical diagnostics have been undertaken. Work on two buildings of the Hospital complex has been completed, with two additional buildings currently under restoration. Work on the main block is yet to commence;
- Two public institutions were relocated from the property to the mainland, which reportedly reduces the risk to their original buildings due to constant use;
- Community programmes (such as "One Student One Family") are being implemented to improve the inhabitants living conditions and their sense of belonging and identity, especially in Macúti. A "Workshop on the community participation in the management and monitoring processes at the Island of Mozambique World Heritage Site" was held in November 2019, funded through International Assistance;
- An "Urban Structure Plan for the Island of Mozambique District" is being prepared, which aims to define strategies to sustainably manage traffic and mitigate negative impacts on cultural heritage, and to develop actions regarding the excessive demographic pressure, which impacts on infrastructure and public spaces;

- The MCPIM provides for a Heritage Management Committee (CGIM) to ensure the site's conservation, but it is not yet constituted;
- The protective sea wall of the Island, which collapsed in 2017 supposedly due to climate change-related tidal activity, was rebuilt;
- There are still storm water drainage and sanitation problems, especially in Macúti town;
- A proposal to build a tourist complex on Goa Island, located in the buffer zone, was presented to GACIM, who submitted the project to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism;
- The “Specific Rules for the Conservation of the Built Heritage of Macúti Town” has been developed and is awaiting government approval. It includes a framework, types of intervention, and rules, with three examples of standard-projects, to contribute for the preservation of original architecture and serve as guidance for interventions.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The progress made by the State Party in addressing the challenges faced by the property is to be commended, in particular the revision of the Management and Conservation Plan of the Island of Mozambique (MCPIM), through financial support from the One UN Fund. It is now urgent for the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review before official approval. The new buffer zone delimitation proposal should be submitted as a Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The efforts made to strengthen GACIM's authority and technical capacities are to be similarly commended, in particular with regards to efforts to amend its statute to grant the institution increased authority regarding decision-making on interventions on the Island's built heritage. The State Party should be encouraged to pursue these efforts, notably by approving the proposed amendment to the GACIM's statute, appointing qualified staff and reinforcing the cooperation between GACIM and the Municipality on issues and activities related to management and conservation.

The conservation measures undertaken to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as seen with the reconstruction of the hospital building should continue. The actions to protect the Island from storm surges, through the construction of a sea wall are laudable. A long-term strategy for sea defence infrastructure should be developed and its effect assessed through Visual and Heritage Impact Assessments.

Important restoration work remains to be done, in particular on buildings such as the Court of the Island, or the main block of the hospital. This process should be carried out on the basis of the conservation guidelines to steer renovation and restoration projects. Long-term vacancy of public buildings should be avoided and careful consideration to their new use is recommended, with preference to new public use.

The State Party has not yet submitted the requested inventory of Structures of the stone and lime town area of the property, which should identify their current use. Moreover, the “Urban Structure Plan for the Island of Mozambique District” should be finalized and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The “Specific Rules for the Conservation of the Built Heritage of Macúti town”, submitted along with the State Party report, is also to be welcomed. This document, for which ICOMOS provided a technical review sent to the State Party on 17 September 2020, needs to be updated accordingly following which it should be approved by the government and implemented. Efforts made to improve the conservation of Macúti, for example through programmes to empower the local communities, should be extended, with priority to development projects to improve the sanitation and living conditions in Macúti. It is recommended that the Committee encourages the State Party to mobilize funds to this effect including through International Assistance.

The organization of the “Workshop on the community participation in the management and monitoring processes at the Island of Mozambique World Heritage Site” is also welcomed.

Finally, it is worth recalling that, pursuant to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party should inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of the state of progress of the “Fortim de São Lourenço”, “Complex and Hotel Desportivo” and “Tourist complex in Goa Island” projects.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.8**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.47**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Commends the State Party for the finalization of the Management and Conservation Plan of Island of Mozambique (2018-2024) (MCPIM), and urges the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies and, once agreement has been reached on its content, to officially approve this document;
4. Also commends the State Party for the new buffer zone delimitation proposal, and requests it to submit it as a Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre following the official procedure set in Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies and examination by the World Heritage Committee;
5. Encourages the State Party to pursue its efforts to strengthen the Island of Mozambique Conservation Office (GACIM)'s authority and technical capacities, notably by approving the proposed amendment of GACIM's statutes, by accelerating the process of recruitment of new official staff, and by reinforcing the cooperation between GACIM and the Municipality on issues and activities related to the management and conservation of the property;
6. Notes with satisfaction the conservation measures undertaken by the State Party to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, notably the restoration of a number of buildings in the hospital complex, and also requests the State Party to:
  - a) Finalize the restoration of the main block of the hospital,
  - b) Find a sustainable solution to avoid long-term vacancy of public buildings in the property and maintain their public use,
  - c) Undertake restoration work on important buildings, such as the Court of the Island,
  - d) Enforce the use of the conservation guidelines to steer renovation and restoration projects,
  - e) Submit the requested inventory of Structures of the stone and lime town area of the property, and include their current use in the inventory,
  - f) Encourage property owners to address annual building maintenance, to avoid increasing deterioration due to Climate Change and rising Risks;
7. Further commends the State Party on its actions in addressing threats from climate change induced storm surges, also noting the potential spatial and visual impacts of these structures, further requests the State Party to develop a long-term strategy for sea defence infrastructure and to assess this through Visual and Heritage Impact Assessments, and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to finalize the "Urban Structure Plan for the Island of Mozambique District" and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before adopting it;
9. Welcomes the elaboration of the "Specific Rules for the Conservation of the Built Heritage of the Macúti Town", and requests moreover the State Party to update it



*following the recommendations provided by ICOMOS in its technical review and to officially approve and implement it;*

10. *Also encourages the State Party to mobilize funds (through International Assistance for example) to address the living conditions in the Macúti town in a way that is appropriate regarding the OUV of the property, notably through development projects to improve the sanitation and living conditions;*
11. *Also welcomes the holding of the “Workshop on the community participation in the management and monitoring processes at the Island of Mozambique World Heritage Site”, and further encourages the State Party to continue community participation and engagement activities;*
12. *Recalls that, pursuant to Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the State Party should inform the Committee through the World Heritage Centre of the status of the “Fortim de São Lourenço”, “Complex and Hotel Desportivo” and “Tourist complex in Goa Island” projects and ensure that no work continue on these proposed projects, until information has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **9. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 10,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

In 2020: USD 50,000 from the UNESCO / Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the Development of a Conservation Methodology, training, digital documentation and review of the Conservation Management Plan

### Previous monitoring missions

October 2015: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission.

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Urban development close to the property
- Road construction around the property
- Pollution of the Osun River
- Bush fires within the property
- Adverse impact of the commercialisation of the annual festival

- Fragility of spiritual, symbolic and ritual qualities of the Grove in the face of a growth in visitor numbers and the lack of a tourism management plan
- Road through property not re-aligned

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1118/documents>. The State Party reported progress in addressing the concerns of the Committee and the lack of implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission as follows:

- Progress was made between 2016 and 2019 on the restoration and conservation of sculptures by the New Sacred Art Movement and the Oduni Olorisa Trust in collaboration with the National Council for Museums and Monuments;
- Cement is still being used to restore the sculptures, the larger ones with a mud core, as this is seen to be in line with the original construction methods;
- Funding for conservation is variously provided by the National Council for Museums and Monuments (NCMM), although not on a regular basis, by the Osun State Government and by the Adonis Olorisa Trust, an independent NGO;
- Digital documentation of all the sculptures was organised in October 2019 by the Aduni Olorisa Trust and implemented by CYARK; photographic surveys are also being undertaken of the sculptures as an aid to restoration;
- The State Government has agreed to carry out regular sampling of the polluted water from the Osun River and has embarked on a campaign to try to stop illegal dumping upstream from the property;
- The 2014-2019 Management Plan is being reviewed and a 2020-2024 Plan will be produced;
- The artists' village was constructed in the buffer zone rather than in the property;
- No progress has been made with the re-alignment of the road to remove it from the property, but this project is still a priority for the State Government.

No details have been provided of regeneration work on the Sacred Forest or how the income from the Festival, or part of the sponsorship that it receives, can be directed to conservation work.

In line with the Committee' recommendations, the State Party had invited a World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to consider conservation issues, the overall sustainable management of the property, and whether the threats facing the property could, in conformity with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*, support a case for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, but the mission, which was scheduled to take place from 9 to 13 March 2020 could not take place due to travel restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic and will be rescheduled as soon as circumstances permit.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM acknowledge the progress outlined by the State Party with regard to the funding and restoration of sculptures and their documentation.

The digital documentation project, which appears to have been a pilot project, will provide useful information and can be used at upcoming Festivals to raise awareness of the sculptures. It is not clear which parts of the property were covered but there is a need to continue this work. It is noted with appreciation that new funding could be secured to this end from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust.

There remains concern that restoration of the sculptures still involves the use of cement. Although this was the original material used, it is susceptible to cracking and water ingress in the hot, humid, climatic conditions prevailing at the property. As the 2015 mission recommended, alternative materials need to be found that can provide a longer term solution to avoid the complete reconstruction of sculptures every other generation. A more flexible material is needed. There is an urgent need to address this issue and it is indeed unfortunate that work has been carried out since 2015 without the necessary advice having been taken.

Conserving the large number of shrines, sculptures and art works is an enormous task and a conservation programme needs to be set out that defines not only regular resourcing but also conservation methods that ensure effective use of resources. A revised and improved conservation methodology, to be supported by the above-mentioned extrabudgetary funds, as well as a phased plan should be provided to ICOMOS for review before any further work is undertaken.

The pollution of the river water also remains a cause of concern. Although the Osun State has now agreed to carry out regular sampling and is urging residents not to dump waste upstream, more needs to be done. This problem was identified at the time of inscription in 2005, and in the intervening 15 years, many festival participants have been put at severe risk through drinking or washing in the polluted water. Although the river is seen as the 'waters of life' in Yoruba cosmology and is believed to have healing, protective and fertility powers, strong precautions must be put in place to prevent drinking directly from the river and actions have to be taken to improve the quality of the river water. The State Party is encouraged to work with traditional religious leaders to find a temporary solution that allows purified water to be given to festival participants.

The management system and sustainable funding still remain to be addressed. Although a revised Management Plan is promised, no details have been provided as to how this will be delivered, particularly in the context of ensuring a more inclusive management structure and adequate, regular funding to allow the Plan to be implemented and traditional craftspeople to be deployed on a regular basis. The previous plans provided some good tools but have not been fully implemented through lack of funding.

As yet, no arrangement has been made to allow some of the income from the annual Festival, or the sponsorship it attracts, to fund conservation. As around three quarters of the annual visitors come during the Festival, it seems incontrovertible that it should support promotion, management and conservation of the property. Such an approach could be defined in a cultural tourism management plan that was requested at the time of inscription.

The closure of the road through the centre of the property was in the Management Plan at the time of inscription. A viable alternative route for the road must be designed as soon as possible so that it is ready for implementation when funds are allocated.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.9**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.109, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party in the restoration of sculptures and their documentation;*
4. *Welcomes the digital documentation pilot project to digitise part of the sculptures on the property, and its proposed use as a communication tool in future editions of the Festival, and encourages the State Party to extend this documentation process to cover all the shrines, sculpture and art works in the property alongside photographic documentation;*
5. *Reiterates its concerns that no satisfactory basis for conservation has been defined that is underpinned by research into appropriate alternative materials to cement, which does not provide a suitable long-term material given its susceptibility to cracks and water ingress in the local hot and humid climatic conditions, and notes that the complete or partial reconstruction of sculptures is still being undertaken;*
6. *Requests the State Party to refrain from carrying out any non-urgent work on restoration of the sculptures and to halt all reconstruction until a revised conservation methodology and phased conservation plan has been prepared and submitted to the World Heritage*

Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and, given the fundamental need to address the conservation of the large number of shrines, sculptures and art works in the property, encourages the State Party to put in place regular resources to ensure that skilled local craftspeople continue to be employed in this work;

7. Also notes that although the Osun State has now agreed to carry out regular sampling of water in the Osun river, and is urging residents not to dump waste upstream as a safety precaution to be taken to avoid any risk of contamination, and also requests the State Party to take concrete steps to prevent direct consumption of drinking water from the river until adequate measures have been taken to improve purity to drinking quality levels, while encouraging it to find a temporary solution, together with traditional religious leaders, so that purified water can be given to festival participants;
8. Further notes that work to revise the Management Plan has been promised but no details have been provided as to how the management system might be made more inclusive or how management might be funded at a sustainable level and benefit from Festival revenue;
9. Notes furthermore that no progress has been made with the implementation of an alternative route to the road through the property, and also encourages the State Party to draw up viable proposals for the Osun State to implement;
10. Takes note that the artists' village is located within the buffer zone, but still expresses concern that no details of this were provided for review in the light of the concerns on its location expressed by the 2015 ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission;
11. Thanks the State Party for having invited a joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, scheduled to be carried out in March 2020 but postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and reiterates the need for this mission to be carried out as soon as circumstances permit to address the abovementioned conservation issues in order to assess whether the threats facing the property would, in conformity with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, represent or not a case for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and also to consider how the overall management of the property can be put on more inclusive and sustainable footing;
12. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 10. Sukur Cultural Landscape (Nigeria) (C 938)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (iii)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1997-2017)

Total amount approved: USD 47,017

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 22,296 in 2016 through the Hungary Funds-in-Trust for rehabilitation and conservation activities

### Previous monitoring missions

May 2018: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission (in Abuja, Nigeria)

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Damage to the Hidi Palace, the Palace Square, the Black Smith Homestead, paved walkways and ritual structures by insurgents
- Civil unrest
- Illegal activities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/>

### Current conservation issues

On 7 September 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, and additional updated information was provided on 16 March 2020, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/938/documents/>, and reports the following:

- Conservation and restoration work has been carried out through the International Assistance of the World Heritage Fund. This has allowed the restoration of 12 buildings in the Hidi Palace and Palace Square and some sections of the stone enclosure wall around the Hidi Palace, the Initiation Room (Buk), two stone wall enclosed pit toilets in the Palace Square, the Primary Health Care Centre, as well as a block of primary school classrooms;
- Funds donated by the Lagart Trust England and Prof. Nicholas David to the Sukur community allowed for procurement of materials for the roofing of the primary school building;
- The gradual erosion of the paved walkway from the foot to the top of the hill due to weather conditions and continued usage is recognised. The community has agreed to plant trees to reduce soil erosion;
- The impact of climate change has led to changing weather patterns which has consequently affected the availability of grass for thatch. New constructions and renovations of homesteads on the hilltop are often done with corrugated zinc sheets rather than thatch. However the Hidi Palace and the Palace Square are unaffected by this;
- As to the security situation, the property itself continues to enjoy relative safety as indicated by robust economic activities. Many people have relocated to the property. Nevertheless, a significant degree of apprehension remains in the region due to sporadic attacks from Boko Haram insurgents along the access route to Sukur;
- Cooperation with Cameroon has been initiated in order to work towards an extension of the property. In December 2019, a mission conducted jointly by Cameroonian and Nigerian officials to the Mandara Hills has allowed progress to be made on a proposal for an extension of the

transboundary property of Sukur Diy-Gid-Biy Cultural Landscape. Such an extension is expected to offer more integral site interpretation, enhance transboundary cooperation, and improve efforts for the maintenance of peace.

**Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM**

As already observed by the 2018 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission, the security situation has considerably improved and stabilised at the property. With relative peace having returned in north-eastern Nigeria, including Sukur, a significant proportion of the community has returned to their traditional homes on the hilltop, perceived as providing increased security. This has been confirmed, not only in the report by the State Party, but also through other accounts, such as activity reports prepared in the framework of the international assistance or the project funded by Hungary. This has permitted the State Party and the local community to remain engaged in continued conservation works.

In that context, note is taken that extensive damage was incurred during the attacks by Boko Haram insurgents in December 2014, and that some buildings have now been repaired and rehabilitated, especially in the Hidi Palace, and it is recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for the important efforts, not only for conservation, but also for fund mobilisation and capacity building for the site manager. As also emerged from International Assistance activity reports, it is positive that the various restoration works were carried out with a strong youth engagement component, notably at the Hidi Palace, where the youth intervened on the buildings in the Palace Square, while chiefs and community elders were responsible for the Initiation Room (Buk) and the guest buildings in the Palace, which have certain customary practices associated with their use.

The dislocation of the community during the insurgent attacks also had a highly negative impact on the wider property outside the Hidi Palace, particularly on clusters of traditional houses and traditional agricultural terraces with their associated ritual systems, all of which are attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). No information has so far been provided on how these further crucial aspects are being restored to sustain the visually dramatic terraced landscape of the Mandara Mountains.

Demographic pressure from refugees is continuing to have negative environmental impacts from bush clearing for farming, and wood harvesting for fuel. This is one of the causes of the scarcity of local materials, such as grass for local thatch roofs, with use of metal sheeting instead.

The State Party should therefore continue to take action to enhance awareness of heritage conservation by reaching out to the Sukur community and encourage them through promotion and incentives to maintain not only the traditional architecture, but also traditional agricultural practices and their associated rituals. This could build on the encouraging experience of the works on the Hidi Palace and the generally strong resilience of the community observed over the past years, but needs to be extended to cover conservation of the wider traditional agricultural landscape and the safeguarding of associated intangible cultural heritage. Coordination should be encouraged between the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) and relevant departments for agriculture and living heritage.

It is recognised that securing the area continues to require important measures by the national armed forces that are deployed along the roads leading to Sukur Hill, which accounts for much of the progress observed, despite the fact that these measures have made access to the property much more difficult. However, the larger area remains exposed to the threat of further insurgent attacks, which could lead to yet further migration of the population from the lowland plains to the hilltop, exerting more pressure on the cultural landscape, already impacted by the negative effects of environmental degradation and climate change on traditional livelihoods.

It is noted that there has been dialogue with the State Party of Cameroon on the possibility of a transnational extension of the property to include the archaeological remains of Diy-Gid-Biy. It is suggested that the State Party may wish to request Upstream advice on the potential for this site to reflect the OUV of the property as a living cultural landscape.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.10**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. **Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,**

2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.48**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the initiatives undertaken for the restoration and reconstruction of some of the traditional buildings in the property that were damaged by 2014 insurgents' attacks; in particular within and around the Hidi Palace;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction the resilience of the Sukur community in the context of persisting threats in the larger area surrounding the property, and encourages the State Party and the local community to maintain their efforts for heritage conservation, in particular with regard to the mobilisation of the youth;*
5. *Notes nevertheless that considerable further conservation work remains to be undertaken on paved paths and walls as well as on the wider property beyond the Hidi Palace, in particular on the clusters of traditional house and agricultural terraces, which were devastated by insurgents and are crucial attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property as a living cultural landscape;*
6. *Welcomes the efforts deployed by the State Party to secure the area, ensuring increased protection to the population of Sukur, especially on the hilltop, but expresses its concern over persisting threats to security in the larger area through sporadic attacks from Boko Haram insurgents along the access route to Sukur;*
7. *Recognising again that due to the sense of relative safety the hilltop holds, the population has resettled and increased at Sukur, but also notes with concern that the increase of demographic pressure is a factor that contributes to environmental degradation, resulting in scarcity of local building materials, and favours the inappropriate re-adaptative use of new building materials and technologies;*
8. *Requests the State Party to take action to enhance awareness of heritage conservation by reaching out to the Sukur community to encourage them through promotion and incentives to actively conserve traditional architecture and agricultural terraced landscapes, and to safeguard associated intangible cultural heritage through coordination between the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) and the relevant departments responsible for agriculture and living heritage;*
9. *Also notes that discussions have taken place with the State Party of Cameroon on the possibility of a transboundary extension of the property to include the Diy-Gid-Biy archaeological sites, and also encourages the State Party to consider requesting Upstream advice on the potential for this extension to reflect the OUV of the property as a living cultural landscape;*
10. *Further notes that the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was unable to visit the property itself due to security concerns, and also requests the State Party to again invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, once the necessary security clearance can be obtained, to assess the state of conservation of the property and the efficacy of measures for both traditional buildings and traditional agricultural terraced landscapes that have been put in place to safeguard the property's OUV;*
11. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2004-2014

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1983-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 81,953

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 201,390 from the Norwegian Funds-in-Trust for UNESCO rehabilitation project

Previous monitoring missions

February 2004: ICOMOS mission; June 2008, March 2009, and December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of approved boundaries for the property and buffer zones linked to the land-use plans and appropriate protection
- Deterioration of the architectural heritage fabric
- Sea wave erosion
- Theft of stone from ruins for use as building material
- Lack of functioning local consultative committee
- Lack of implementation of the conservation and management plans
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (lack of tourism development plan)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/144/documents/> and responds to previous Committee Decisions as follows:

- The State Party acknowledges the Committee's recommendation to consider a longer implementation timeframe for the revised Integrated Management Plan (IMP) (2016-2019);
- The revised IMP will include both a detailed Land Use Plan and a Tourism Development Plan as well as a new regulatory framework for dealing with matters related to the establishment of the boundaries and buffer zone. These documents will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2021;
- The State Party has entrusted the stewardship of the property to the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) in accordance with the Antiquity Act Cap 333 (revised edition 2002);
- The conservation work to construct the protective sea wall (riprap wall) and to strengthen the lower base of the north-eastern tower of the Gereza Fort (referred to as the Portuguese Tower or Fort) has been completed. The State Party intends to undertake similar work on the western side of the Gereza Fort, along the Malindi Seafront, at Husuni Kubwa and at Makutani. It also plans to improve tourist facilities and amenities by constructing a jetty and recreation centres at Songo Mnara and Kilwa Kisiwani and by improving the existing jetty and other visitor facilities in Kilwa Kisiwani as foreseen in the IMP.



### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

In response to the significant threats the property faces related to the deterioration of the architectural fabric, sea wave erosion, weak management system and lack of management plan, the Committee decided to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2004 in order to mobilise both, technical and financial support from local and international donors. This decision led to a marked improvement in the management and state of conservation of the property. As a result of substantial progress, it was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2014 (Decision **38 COM 7A.27**). With the support of UNESCO International Assistance approved in 2015, important conservation works were undertaken to strengthen the coastal sea wall to the west of Malindi mosque and the attached cemetery down to the Gereza Fort in Kilwa Kisiwani to protect these structures from destructive tidal wave action. In 2016, the IMP was approved. Its implementation plan contains 18 targets to support effective management of the property, enhance its governance, and steer activities related to income generation for poor families. The plan also proposed to establish a participatory management system to engage communities and stakeholders, to improve visitor management, to develop a maintenance plan and to consolidate all monuments by 2019.

Although the IMP covered the essential issues and challenges the property is facing, the implementation timeframe of 4 years (2016-2019) was too short to implement all the recommendations proposed by the 2013 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and to put into practice all targets and activities developed within the implementation plan. The State Party has taken note of this challenge and is considering proposing a longer implementation timeframe for the revised IMP, but has provided no new timeframes.

For the revision of the IMP, it is therefore important for the State Party not only to consider a broader discussion and engagement with local communities, stakeholders, and partners, but also to address the following aspects:

- Create an overview of all outstanding Committee requests expressed in past Decisions and develop a work-plan to address these issues, including repeated Committee requests going back to 2007 (Decision **31 COM 7A.15**), in relation to the preparation of the Land Use Plan for the property, the formulation of the Sustainable Tourism Development Plan, and clarification of boundaries;
- Finalize the 18 targets of the IMP, notably the elaboration of the mechanism related to the governance of the property so as to engage communities and stakeholders in the implementation of the revised IMP;
- Develop further projects for conservation works, notably the completion of conservation work at Gereza Fort, Malindi Sea Front, Husuni Kubwa and Makutani;
- Consider how the boundaries might be extended to cover Sanje ya Kati island and Kilwa Kivinje, and how an appropriate buffer zone for the property might be defined;
- For large conservation projects and any projects to improve tourist facilities and enhance tourism development in Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, these should be submitted in outline for review with appropriate and detailed documentation on archaeological and Heritage and Environmental Impact Assessments before any commitment is made.

Finally, for the sustainable development of the property, the State Party should also ensure that these interventions be related to each other to create a synergy that supports and promotes the efforts to safeguard the OUV of the property.

### Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.11

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 42 COM 7B.50, adopted at the 42nd session (Manama, 2018),

3. *Commends the State Party on the continuing effort to implement conservation works and formulate the management system since 2014, following the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
4. *Welcomes the State Party's decision to review the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) (2016-2019) and to consider a longer period for the implementation timeframe, and requests the State Party to provide an updated work-plan for the review of the IMP, its submission to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and its implementation;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to consider addressing and integrating the following aspects in the process of reviewing the IMP, namely:*
  - a) *An overview of all other outstanding Committee requests expressed in its past Decisions on this property and a work plan to address these issues,*
  - b) *Unimplemented targets and activities of the current IMP, notably the effort to enhance the governance of the property so as to better engage communities, stakeholders and partners in implementation processes,*
  - c) *Proposals for further conservation works at the Gereza Fort, Malindi Seafront, Husuni Kubwa, and Makutani,*
  - d) *How the boundaries might be extended to cover Sanje ya Kati Island and Kilwa Kivinje, and how an appropriate buffer zone for the property might be defined;*
6. *Noting the intention of the State Party to enhance tourism development in Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, further requests that these projects be submitted for review together with appropriate and detailed archaeological documentation and Heritage Impact Assessments *before the projects are authorized or before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;**
7. *Encourages the State Party to inform the Committee through the World Heritage Centre of any major conservation or development project which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## 12. Stone Town of Zanzibar(United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1998-1998)

Total amount approved: USD 15,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: 2009: USD 24,000 for the inventory of the public spaces in Zanzibar; 2011: USD 14,000 for capacity-building in managing digital inventory; 2013: 49,935 USD for participatory mapping of HUL (Netherlands Funds-in-Trust). 2010-2013; USD 400,000 for Zanzibar and two other African sites under the World Heritage Cities Programme (Flemish Funds-in-Trust), USD 40,00 for Zanzibar for emergence works and capacity building (Oman FiT)

### Previous monitoring missions

May 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; January 2011: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September/October 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; October/November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2016: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; December 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission.

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management system/management plan
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Development and environmental pressures, particularly in relation with Malindi port project (issue resolved)
- Natural disasters and lack of risk-preparedness
- Visitors/tourist pressures
- Housing pressure
- Lack of human and financial resources
- Lack of legal framework
- Commercial development (large shopping mall) particularly in relation to the Darajani Corridor project
- Lack of maintenance of built fabric

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/>

### Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in December 2019 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173/documents/>). Subsequently, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on 28 December 2019, which is also available at the above-mentioned address, and responds in detail to Decision **42 COM 7B.51**, as follows:

- The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the Green Corridors project was under preparation, while the draft HIA on the Darajani Mall project was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- The Cross-Cutting Task Team (CCTT) recommended by the Committee was established in February 2019, creating a strong inter-institutional governance and management mechanism. An

overview of its activities is appended to the report, which include investigating the implementation of the mitigation measures for the Mambo Msiige building and engaging the operator of the hotel in the process;

- The Development Control Unit (DCU), the Board of Directors for the Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority (STCDA), and the Stakeholders Forum have all been established; the establishment of the Heritage Board is in the process;
- Emergency restoration works have been undertaken on the Tippu Tip House and its future use is being discussed by the developer and the Zanzibar Ministry of Lands, Housing, Water and Energy;
- The Sultanate of Oman has funded the stabilization of the Palace Museum, and the conservation plan for the restoration of the building has been completed, but this was not included in the report. Restoration will be implemented soon;
- A buildings survey of the property has been initiated and was expected to be completed by December 2019. Special attention was to be given to the restoration of buildings belonging to the Zanzibar Housing Corporation (ZHC): 11 of the 27 buildings categorized as being in a poor state of conservation were restored, and the ZHC plans to undertake restoration of 15 more;
- The Bwawani Hotel project has been halted. No further information is currently available.

Subsequent to the report summarised above, the State Party submitted the HIA of the Michenzani Green Corridor Project (MGCP) as well as a proposal for the reuse of the Tippu Tip House to the World Heritage Centre for review.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The progress made by the State Party in establishing the CCTT, halting the Bwawani Hotel redevelopment, undertaking a survey of the property and the reported restorations are positive. The reported structural stabilization at the Palace Museum and at the Tippu Tip House are welcome. It should be noted, however, that the material regarding the emergency work at the Tippu Tip House was submitted to the World Heritage Centre only subsequent to its implementation, not beforehand as requested by the Committee (**42 COM 7B.51**). Recent submission of information notified that the building, like the Mambo Msiige building, had been leased to a hotel operator. A project proposal for the reuse of the structure, in part as restaurant and hotel accommodation, also allows for areas for displays relating to the person of Tippu Tip. This proposal has been reviewed by ICOMOS as not being appropriate to the significance of this building. The 2014, 2016 and 2017 Joint UNESCO/Advisory Bodies missions all recommended that the building be given a public education use and the Committee may wish to request that a use appropriate to the building's history and significance be identified. The structural stability of the Palace Museum remains a source of great concern.

The 2019 mission reported that the establishment of the CCTT has been of great benefit in the coordination of the management of the property but noted that the management system of the property is still not functioning effectively. It reported that the Heritage Board has not yet been legally established, but as the CCTT's mandate operates until 2024, it could be subsumed by the Heritage Board.

The State Party has also made progress with regard to the new integrated Conservation and Heritage Management Plan. This is an important tool to improve the management of the property and its completion and submission to the World Heritage Centre for review and subsequent implementation is urgent.

The mission further reported new initiatives at the property with potential to improve its state of conservation, including the Stone Town Mobility Management Plan, the Zanzibar City Centre Local Area Plan (Ng'ambo Local Area Plan) and the MGCP. A HIA for the MGCP was submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by ICOMOS.

Other envisaged developments remain points of concern, including the Darajani Corridor Business Centre, of which the negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property had previously been noted by the Committee (**42 COM 7B.51**). This proposal needs to be reconceptualised and aligned with the Zanzibar City Centre Local Area Plan and the MGCP. The relocation of the container terminal from the Malindi Harbour to Maruhubi requires careful guidance. HIAs should be undertaken on the redevelopment of the Malindi Harbour and the development of the Maruhubi Harbour, which is located within the property's buffer zone.

The mission recommended that the property should not be considered for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger at present due to the positive steps initiated by the State Party. However, should the lack of effective conservation management, combined with the perilous state of conservation of the property and development pressures, not be addressed in the short term, this could warrant the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, by the Committee at its session in 2023. It would therefore be appropriate for the State Party to update the Committee on its activities through annual state of conservation reports and to invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property during the first half of 2023 to assess its state of conservation.

The mission however, concluded that the state of conservation of the property remains a point of great concern, and observed the need for urgent re-enforcement of conservation guidelines to halt the continuing decay of the built fabric of the property.

These concerns were unfortunately confirmed by the partial collapse of the House of Wonders on 25 December 2020, with some loss of life. Two emergency missions were dispatched to the property under the guidance of the World Heritage Centre: one to provide advice to stabilise the structure, the other to create an accurate digital scan of the structure. The World Heritage Centre has been in close contact with the State Party following the disaster. The State Party has invited a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property, which will visit the property as soon as health conditions allow. The State Party of Oman has also pledged its financial support for the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders.

The House of Wonders is a key attribute of the OUV of this property. The future rehabilitation of the building is a complex challenge that will require a thorough analysis of the current structural state of the building and the methods with which it was constructed. All potentially reusable components of the building need to be salvaged. The *Operational Guidelines* state that “*Reconstruction is acceptable only on the basis of complete and detailed documentation and to no extent on conjecture*” (Paragraph 86). Therefore, much archival and on-site investigation is required into the successive stages of the building over its history. The technologies utilised in its construction will need to be carefully studied before a rehabilitation strategy can be developed. At the same time, thought needs to be given to the future use of the building as a key attribute of this property.

The idea of composing a Scientific Committee team to assist in developing the museum displays and the technical requirements for the museum to function properly is all the more welcome. Such a committee could be expanded to assist and advise the State Party on the investigations required to come to a rehabilitation strategy that supports the contribution of this important attribute to the OUV.

Simultaneously, it is advised that the State Party develop an action plan to address the state of conservation of the built fabric of the property as a whole, not just the listed buildings. Such an action plan should aim to support the OUV of the property and be community driven to ensure that it can count on the support of the residents of the property.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.12**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.51**, adopted in its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Acknowledges the progress made by the State Party in establishing the Cross-Cutting Task Team and in the emergency stabilisation of the Tippu Tip House, welcomes the development of the Stone Town Mobility Management Plan and the Michenzani Green Corridor Project (MGCP);
4. Notes the conclusions of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission that the state of conservation of the property remains a point

of great concern, that re-enforcement of conservation guidelines and building control is urgent, and that the management system of the property is not functioning effectively;

5. Also notes the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and requests the State Party to implement them without delay;
6. Further notes the progress made in drafting the new integrated Conservation and Heritage Management Plan (CHMP), and also requests the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible and to implement it as soon as agreement has been reached on its content following this review;
7. Notes with concern the recent collapse of a large section of the House of Wonders, and urges the State Party to:
  - a) Ensure that the still-remaining portion of the building is safeguarded in the long term,
  - b) Salvage, keep safe and make an inventory of all possibly reusable components of the building from the collapsed portion of the building,
  - c) Expand the proposed technical team proposed to assist in developing the museum displays to assist and advise it on the investigations required to come to a rehabilitation strategy that supports the contribution of this important attribute of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),
  - d) Design, advised by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and the proposed technical team, and implement a research project to investigate the chronological history of the building and its constructing technologies through archival and on-site investigations,
  - e) Develop alternative proposals for the rehabilitation of the building advised by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and the proposed Scientific Committee and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by the Committee;
8. Also acknowledges the support of the State Party of Oman for the stabilization of the Palace Museum , and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit information on the renovation approach for the rehabilitation project of the Palace Museum to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible and before the project is implemented;
9. Further requests that:
  - a) The important attributes of the Malindi Harbour be inventoried and the future redevelopment of the Malindi Harbour and the development of the Maruhubi Harbour be subject to Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), conforming to Paragraph 118 bis of the Operational Guidelines,
  - b) The Darajani Corridor Business Centre be reconceptualised and aligned with the Zanzibar City Centre Local Area Plan and the Michenzani Green Corridor Project plan, the new design for the Darajani Corridor Business Centre be reviewed through an HIA process, and the plans and HIA be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,
  - c) Alternative proposals for the Tippu Tip House that ensures public educational use appropriate to its significant contribution to the OUV of the property be developed,
  - d) In the mid-term, a Strategic Development Plan be developed for the property to coordinate all development projects within the site including its aquatic buffer zone,

*within the framework of the Zanzibar Town Master Plan, and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,*

- e) *A multi-year community-driven action plan be urgently developed to address the state of conservation of the built fabric of the property;*
10. *Acknowledges the invitation by the State Party for a joint UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property and requests furthermore the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property in early 2023 to assess its overall state of conservation and, in particular, progress on the implementation of the new integrated CHMP and assess whether the state of conservation of the property and development pressures warrant the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger;*
  11. *Notes furthermore that, if not addressed, the lack of effective conservation management, combined with the poor state of conservation of the property and development pressures, could warrant a future inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;*
  12. *Thanks the State Party of Oman and the World Monuments Fund for their contributions to the recovery activities related to the House of Wonders in the Stone Town of Zanzibar World Heritage property, the State Party of Oman for its further financial commitments made to its future rehabilitations, further welcomes the actions undertaken by the State Party of the United Republic of Tanzania to safeguard the remainder of the building, and requests moreover that the rehabilitation of the House of Wonders be developed as exemplary research project for recovery, repair and maintenance of traditional Swahili buildings in this and other World Heritage properties on the east African coast;*
  13. *Calls for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through International Assistance, to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;*
  14. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, a report on the state of conservation of the property, and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022.*

## ARAB STATES

### 13. Historic Cairo (Egypt) (C 89)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 14. Babylon (Iraq) (C 278)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

Two missions to Babylon for the preparation of the “Final Report on Damage Assessment in Babylon”, by the International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Iraq – Sub-Committee on Babylon (2008-2009)

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription:

- Lack of a comprehensive conservation plan for the property, including a priority intervention scheme for the most urgent conservation measures needed
- Need to augment the management plan to include the comprehensive conservation plan
- Need to research the relationships between the Neo-Babylonian capital and its wider landscape as the basis for consideration of further extension of the buffer zone to address challenges in the setting
- Need to better communicate to visitors the revised boundary concept and the explicit exclusion of 20th century additions from the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 February 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, an updated version of which was submitted on 28 January 2021. These reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/278/documents/> and cover the World Heritage properties of Hatra, Ashur (Qal'at Sherqat), Samarra Archaeological City, information about the cultural components of The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (2021 report only), and Babylon. The reports address recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property in 2019 (Decision **43 COM 8B.13**) as follows:

- The development of conservation and rehabilitation work on the property before and since its inscription is outlined. The State Party has been working with the World Monuments Fund (WMF) on the property since 2008. Conservation works are underway and further funding has been



allocated. Information is provided on conservation work at the Ishtar Temple and the Temple of Ninmah, which are being carried out under the supervision of the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) and the WMF. Other work carried out includes surveys to measure and monitor groundwater levels, which identified two underground water reservoirs;

- The State Party advises that it is fully aware of the plans and facilities needed at its World Heritage properties, including Babylon, and that it intends to complete those plans to protect and sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the properties;
- In relation to research, a brief outline of the history of archaeological research at the property is provided;
- With regard to the communication and presentation of the property to visitors, the State Party indicates that planning is taking place regarding the design of visitor paths and the establishment of infrastructure facilities, including a visitor centre.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party's report indicates an awareness of the key issues, and it is recommended that the Committee note the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. There has been limited progress in relation to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations made at the time of inscription. It is clear that the State Party faces major challenges and is committed to maintaining the OUV of its World Heritage properties, including Babylon.

At the time of inscription, the World Heritage Committee emphasized that the state of conservation of the property was very concerning and constituted an ascertained danger in the absence of a coordinated, programmed conservation approach with urgent priority interventions. This was the context in which the Committee recommended the development and finalization of a comprehensive conservation plan. While there has been some recent conservation activity, led by the SBAH and with the participation of WMF, there is no indication of the development of a comprehensive conservation plan.

The ICOMOS evaluation notes that a Management Plan was approved in September 2018, which identifies and details risks, issues and conservation challenges. However, its policies and aims are abstract and it has no structured actions or clear methodologies. In its decision, the Committee stated that it is essential that the overall principles laid out in the Plan are transferred to concrete actions on the ground.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to submit such a comprehensive conservation plan as part of an augmented Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption.

The rationale set out in the ICOMOS evaluation for the recommendation of further research on the relationships between the Neo-Babylonian capital and its wider landscape was that, while the current 100m-wide buffer zone provides an added layer of protection to the archaeological city, because of its limited extent it cannot contribute to the protection of the visual setting of the city.

In this context, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to carry out this research as the basis for consideration of further extending the buffer zone to address actual and potential future challenges in the wider setting of the archaeological city.

As part of the nomination process, the State Party had submitted a new three-dimensional boundary concept in February 2019. A number of 20th century constructions in the property have been excluded, thereby becoming islands of buffer zone, while known or potential archaeological resources below these are included within the property. Retained within the property are the reconstructed walls on archaeological remains as well as 20th century artificial landscaping interventions. At the time of inscription, the Committee emphasized that the future management of these excluded 20th century constructions within the property would be critical to the preservation of the fragile condition of integrity. It is recommended that the Committee also reiterate its request to the State Party to communicate to visitors the three-dimensional boundary concept and the explicit exclusion of 20th century additions from the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.14**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 8B.13**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished by the State Party in continuing with some conservation activities and in the presentation of the property;
4. Reiterates its request to the State Party to continue working on the issues noted by the Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, including by:
  - a) *Developing and finalizing the comprehensive conservation plan for the property, and within this, addressing the various risk factors identified in the risk map provided (including through proposing concrete measures towards their effective reduction and mitigation as well as the establishment of a priority intervention scheme for the most urgent conservation measures needed),*
  - b) *Augmenting the Management Plan to include the comprehensive conservation plan, to allow the management team to focus on priority, emergency interventions, and providing detailed implementation-oriented guidance as well as quality indicators for its successful implementation,*
  - c) *Researching further the relationships between the Neo-Babylonian capital and its wider landscape, in particular towards the Euphrates River, and based on the outcomes of this research, considering further extending the buffer zone in order to address actual and potential future challenges, which can be identified in the wider setting of the archaeological city,*
  - d) *Communicating to visitors the three-dimensional boundary concept and the explicit exclusion of 20th century additions from the property;*
5. Reminds the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information of any ongoing and future works at the property or its buffer zone, that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Welcomes the willingness of the State Party to host as soon as possible a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to assist the State Party to develop a phased and costed action plan for the conservation of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 15. Erbil Citadel (Iraq) (C 1437)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted in the framework of the Kurdistan Regional Government Funds-In-Trust:

- The Revitalization of the Citadel of Erbil Phase I project: USD 1,510,444
- The Revitalization of the Citadel of Erbil Phase II project: USD 12,837,347
- Management of the Buffer Area of Erbil Citadel project: USD 338,208

European Union funded project: Support to Livelihoods through Cultural Heritage Development (Erbil Citadel is one of the sites chosen by the project): USD 12,269,391 in total.

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Interpretation facilities for visitors (issue resolved)
- Management system / management plan (issue resolved)
- Lack of survey, documentation and mapping of surviving surface buried archaeological remains of all types (issue resolved)
- Slopes of the archaeological mound non stabilized
- Location and/or architectural design of the Kurdistan National Museum not appropriate
- Existing legal framework needs to be improved
- Insufficient involvement of former inhabitants and of Erbil's civil society in the revitalization of the Citadel

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1437/documents/>. This report provides information on the progress achieved with the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018), as follows:

- The High Commission for Erbil Citadel Revitalization (HCECR) has continued to implement conservation measures, including management, site monitoring, conservation, documentation and emergency preservation actions;
- Archaeological investigations continue as part of a study campaign organized by the Department of Classics and Italian Archaeological Mission in Iraqi Kurdistan of Sapienza University of Rome (MAIKI) in collaboration with the HCECR, which includes training of HCECR staff;
- The HCECR reaffirmed the need for the proper implementation of the Urban Design Guidelines for the buffer zone by the Erbil Governorate and the Municipality to avoid negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

- The HCECR received verbal confirmation from the Erbil Governorate that the proposed Kurdistan Museum Project remains halted, with no final decision on implementation plans yet made;
- Activities have been carried out to enhance visitors' experience and develop property interpretation, including implementation of part of the study on the development and urban enhancement of the Citadel central pathway and subsidiary trails, with financial support by the KAR Group;
- The HCECR continued to carry out emergency interventions on buildings in a critical condition, as well as monitoring and providing regular temporary protection for the roofs and walls of approximately 170 buildings;
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the HCECR and the World Monuments Fund for the rehabilitation of a heritage complex and the conservation and rehabilitation of the bath house (*hammam*). Both projects, funded by the United States of America Embassy in Iraq, were due for completion in 2020. A building infill project was completed to serve as the HCECR offices and was constructed through funds provided by KAR Group;
- The HCECR remains active in coordinating and facilitating cultural activities at the Citadel, increasing the involvement of the local community;
- The State Party reports that no conservation issues that may impact the OUV of the property are currently identified;

The State Party requests that the currently adopted Statement of OUV (SOUV) be accepted as final and commits to the continued submission of updates on archaeological research to the World Heritage Centre.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

It is recommended that the State Party be commended for its continued efforts to address previous Committee decisions under difficult conditions in the region.

The continued efforts to engage the local community, as well as international parties, in the support of the property are welcomed, as are the monitoring, temporary protection and emergency measures for critically endangered structures. Partner funding has contributed towards the maintenance and improvement of the state of conservation of the property. The EU funded project "Support to Livelihoods through Cultural Heritage Development", implemented by the UNESCO Office in Iraq, will also contribute towards this end.

It is advised that the Committee acknowledge the continued work on the enhancement of visitor experience and the development of property interpretation, including active coordination with media agencies and the facilitation of activities at the Citadel. The State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre documentation on the planned development and urban enhancement of the Citadel central pathway and subsidiary trails, which was reviewed by ICOMOS, upon which exchanges and clarifications were made. ICOMOS advises that the State Party should ensure that the installation of the urban enhancement does not hamper future archaeological investigations. In conformity with previous requests from the World Heritage Committee, information on archaeological investigations should continue to be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre.

It remains important that any future draft proposals for the Kurdistan National Museum project be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to any approvals or implementation taking place. Similar action is required for any other large-scaled projects in the buffer zone and setting of the property, that may have a negative impact on the setting of the property or its OUV. In this regard, the ongoing interaction of the HCECR with the Erbil Governorate and the municipality to guarantee the implementation of the Urban Design Guidelines for the buffer zone remains crucial.

The State Party has been successful in engaging external funders and other agencies to support its conservation activities at the property and these contributions are acknowledged.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.15**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.20**, **40 COM 7B.23** and **42 COM 7B.53**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 42nd sessions (Manama, 2018) respectively,
3. Acknowledges the continued efforts by the State Party to engage local and international partners to ensure the conservation of the property and maintain its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and welcomes the important steps taken by the State Party in the revitalisation of the property including the rehabilitation of important buildings;
4. Also acknowledges the contributions of partner-funders towards the maintenance and improvement of the state of conservation of the property;
5. Notes that the development and urban enhancement of the Citadel central pathway and subsidiary trails project is an important next step in the further rehabilitation of the property, but care should be taken to ensure that urban infrastructure installations should not hamper future archaeological investigations;
6. Requests the State Party to:
  - a) Ensure the coordinated implementation of the Urban Design Guidelines for the buffer zone by its governmental and municipal bodies,
  - b) Submit the results of current and future archaeological investigations undertaken at the property to the World Heritage Centre;
7. Reminds the State Party of its obligations to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details of all on-going or planned projects, including major restoration and rehabilitation of the property, as well as any new envisaged construction within the property and its buffer zone, in particular designs for the proposed Kurdistan National Museum, before any commitment is given with regard to their approval or construction;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

## 16. Petra (Jordan) (C 326)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1987-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 167,079

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted:

- USD 3,743,125 for the Siq Stability projects (Phases I, II, and III) and the Youth for Heritage Conservation and Risk Prevention in Petra project
- USD 1,136,360 for Preserving Petra's Nabataean Architectural Heritage Through the Study of the Royal Tombs Water Management System and the Conservation of the Palace Tomb, funded by Italy
- USD 70,871.70 in total from the Heritage Emergency Fund since 2017, in relation to protection against flooding hazards
- USD 1,706,490 for the project on Employment Opportunities for Cultural Heritage Safeguarding in Jordan (Petra is one of the sites chosen by the project), funded through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

### Previous monitoring missions

September 2000: ICOMOS mission; March 2004: UNESCO mission; 2009: UNESCO technical expert missions; December 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, November 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Heavy flooding in 1996 (issue resolved)
- Insufficiency or non-existence of sewage disposal facilities (issue resolved)
- Insufficient conservation of antiquities (issue resolved)
- Housing (uncontrolled development of villages in the vicinity of the site)
- Ground transport infrastructure (construction or road widening projects leading to the site)
- Other encroachments upon the integrity of the site
- Lack of management plan for the property (issue resolved)
- Lack of buffer zone boundary delimitations
- Land conversion
- Urban growth and urban encroachment
- Development projects and major visitor associated infrastructure in the property and its vicinity (new hotels under construction, eco-village and cultural village)
- Commercial development

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/>

### Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, and a further update was submitted on 28 January 2021. A summary of both reports is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/326/documents/>. Progress in the implementation of Committee recommendations is presented as follows:

- The Petra Integrated Management Plan (IMP) was finalized in collaboration with the UNESCO Amman Office and launched on 26 November 2019;

- The joint Petra Development and Tourism Authority (PDTRA) and Department of Antiquities (DOA) Committee was formalized in July 2018,
- The PDTRA has taken measures to regulate development projects, including confirming its commitment for a permanent moratorium on new construction visible from the site. Proposed projects in the vicinity of the property must provide Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs and HIAs);
- Major projects have been modified following technical reviews by ICOMOS. The Crowne Plaza Hotel will only undergo renovation work, not expansion. Projects for the installation of a swimming pool at Petra Guest House Hotel and the construction of the Wadi Musa Dam were halted. The Cultural Heritage Village project has been constructed;
- Following the technical review of the Al-Dara Development Project, new design solutions are being considered;
- A new unit has been charged with the protection and conservation of the natural assets of the Petra Archaeological Park (PAP) Natural Protected Area (NPA);
- Projects have been carried out for security and monitoring, capacity building, heritage management, tour guide coordination, a research and storage facility, geophysical surveying, and conservation;
- Petra Museum opened in April 2019 through the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), showcasing over 300 artifacts, interactive screens and videos;
- Projects have been implemented to address flash floods and rock stability;
- A GIS-based platform has been developed to integrate all data concerning the property;
- PDTRA has facilitated community engagement, conducting consultation meetings, and focusing on community-based development projects. Awareness raising at schools has focused on animal welfare, and, free veterinary services have been provided. In collaboration with Durham University, a project on heritage and community mapping has been carried out, reinforcing the role of local communities in management and conservation;
- With the aim of revising the Petra Strategic Master Plan, a Request for Proposal was published in November 2020. PDTRA has received funding from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for developing a sustainable tourism master plan of the Petra Region;
- A committee was formed for the definition of a buffer zone, investigations have commenced, and it is expected that an initial proposal will be available during 2021;
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, new measures were implemented. Rehabilitation and restoration work was carried out, including a water management system. Horse carriages will be replaced with electric cars, while the back exit will be used to facilitate visitor circulation.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

Since the joint 2017 World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, the State Party has addressed some mission recommendations and decisions of the World Heritage Committee.

The State Party is to be congratulated on launching the IMP, comprising management policies and legal provisions for conservation and protection. Implementation of the IMP is now crucial. The establishment of a permanent joint DOA/PDTRA Technical Committee that will evaluate future projects within the property, its buffer zone and areas of influence is welcomed.

The State Party has committed to enforcing a moratorium on new buildings and infrastructure that are visible from the property and has been communicating regularly with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and submitting projects in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Following the technical reviews of projects by ICOMOS, the State Party has undertaken measures to avoid or reduce potential negative impacts. Exchanges are ongoing between the State Party and the World Heritage Centre regarding the Al-Dara Development Project (which would provide alternative access to the property). It is important that any further consideration of this project addresses the issue of increased densification and affords primacy to requirements for retention of attributes that contribute to the OUV of the property.

Projects related to risk management and conservation have been implemented in collaboration with the UNESCO Amman Office and other partners. The Siq Stability project has resulted in the development of a disaster risk management plan addressing potential emergencies within the PAP, the implementation of interventions and the strengthening of capacities. Completion of the ongoing hydrological studies would be necessary to establish risk mitigation measures against flash flooding. A GIS-based platform that will integrate available data is an important step, which will contribute to having an accurate GIS-based map of the property, with precise boundaries, topography, location of all its attributes, and planned buffer zone.

The State Party has been engaging local communities through consultation meetings and awareness raising activities, with a focus on animal welfare. These important efforts should be pursued further to contribute to holistic sustainable economic, environmental and social development.

On 11 October 2019, the World Heritage Centre organized a technical meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, to follow up on the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's previous recommendations as well as those of the 2017 mission. Participants included representatives of the State Party, ICOMOS, and the UNESCO Amman Office. It was agreed that a sustainable tourism management approach is necessary for safeguarding the property and maintaining its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), while ensuring community participation and responding to tourism needs. Accordingly, a process for developing a sustainable tourism strategy was initiated in January 2020. Measures that have been undertaken to address visitor circulation, would need to be considered with a holistic tourism plan.

Managing urban growth and encroachment requires a comprehensive approach in line with the projected ITMP. ICOMOS has provided specific advice on the approach to determining an appropriate buffer zone. The establishment of clear regulations for a revised designated buffer zone and the larger setting of the property should be formulated in consultation with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre and submitted as a minor boundary modification proposal.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.16**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.54**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party on the completion and launch of the Petra Integrated Management Plan (IMP), requests the State Party to initiate its implementation with focus on key policies and immediate actions, and welcomes the establishment of a permanent Technical Committee;*
4. *Commends the State Party for pursuing the implementation of some recommendations of the November 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission and Committee decisions, and encourages the State Party to further pursue these efforts, notably concerning:*
  - a) *Commitment to enforce a permanent moratorium on new buildings and infrastructure that are visible from the site,*
  - b) *Establishing a process for consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS prior to the implementation of major projects, and for subsequently undertaking the necessary measures concerning development projects in the vicinity of the property in order to avoid or reduce negative impacts on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),*
  - c) *Preparing studies addressing water harvesting and flood management in Petra,*
  - d) *Developing a GIS-based platform to record and manage information on the Petra Archaeological Park (PAP),*



- e) *Carrying out community engagement and awareness raising activities, including with a focus on animal welfare;*
5. Urges the State Party to implement the following outstanding recommendations of the 2017 mission:
- a) *Devising the proposed Integrated Territorial Master Plan (ITMP) to facilitate sustainable economic, social and environmental development,*
  - b) *Preventing further densification of the property's setting and diverting urban growth towards the east of the property, and beyond its immediate setting,*
  - c) *Devising new regulations for a designated buffer zone and its larger setting, in line with the proposed integrated territorial planning approach,*
  - d) *The preparation of an accurate GIS-based map of the property, with its precise boundaries, topography, location of all its component attributes and planned buffer zone;*
6. Also requests the State Party to continue to liaise with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS regarding the proposed Al-Dara Development Project, to ensure that consideration of the merits of this project (and design considerations, should the project be further contemplated), addresses issues including increased densification and ensures retention of attributes that contribute to the OUV of the property;
7. Reminds the State Party of the obligation to submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties for all proposed projects, which may affect the OUV of the property;
8. Also urges the State Party to continue working towards the establishment of a sustainable tourism strategy for the property, in collaboration with the UNESCO Amman Office and the World Heritage Centre, in line with the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme,
9. Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit a minor boundary modification request, in line with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, and to clarify the protective urban regulations of the planned buffer zone, including its zoning, in the context of the development of an ITMP, in accordance with the approach recommended by ICOMOS and in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
10. Also encourages the State Party to continue the ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies towards the conservation and management of the property;
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 17. Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region (Sudan) (C 1073)

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 N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2004-2005)

Total amount approved: USD 68,900

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 38,398 by the UNESCO/ Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the development of a sustainable tourism plan; USD 19,798 from the Heritage Emergency Fund.

### Previous monitoring missions

2004, 2006, 2007: World Heritage Centre missions; February 2011: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Land conversion
- Deterioration as a result of exposure to difficult environmental conditions such as wind with sand and floods
- Urban encroachment
- Absence of a management plan with government commitment
- Flooding
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Housing
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems / management plan
- Wind and Desertification

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/>

### Current conservation issues

On 14 June 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1073/documents/>. It provides updated information on progress and challenges in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- There have been challenges in the implementation of the decisions of the Committee and the recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission. These are mainly due to the April 2019 revolution in Sudan, which resulted in the appointment of a new transitional government, in addition to the coronavirus pandemic. A new Director-General for the National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums (NCAM) was appointed in February 2020 and a new management structure has been established;
- Discussions have commenced to address the recommendations concerning boundaries, the creation of a buffer zone and the regulation of ownership of land within and surrounding the components of the property. Potential changes in legislation and regulations are required. NCAM received a grant from the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) to survey the boundaries of the property;

- Conservation monitoring has been established at Kurru and a shelter has been installed over the rock-cut temple. The conservation of the pyramids at Gebel Barkal and Nuri will be a priority of NCAM, supported by the archeological missions;
- Assistance from the international community with resources and training to manage the property is essential, as NCAM relies on international archeological teams to support excavations, management and conservation;
- Archaeological excavation has occurred at Gebel Barkal, Sanam and Nuri. The backfilling of archeological features at Sanam is expected to take place in the last quarter of 2020;
- Construction of the entrance building at Kurru has been halted. However, recommendations related to moving Gebel Barkal museum and the adjacent new visitor centre, removing the nearby hotel construction, and building improved tomb covers at Zuma have not been implemented, owing to lack of funding and other constraints;
- Means to prevent vehicles from accessing the property at Gebel Barkal have been introduced, and vehicle traffic has been stopped in some sites. Further work is required to ensure that vehicles will not be able to enter any of the properties indefinitely;
- A database for objects in the Gebel Barkal Museum is in preparation, with 500 entries included to date;
- Revision of the 2007 Management Plan for the site has been proposed, in light of the recent work carried out and the evolving circumstances at the property.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The efforts and commitment of the State Party, despite challenges which have impeded full implementation of the decisions of the Committee and recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, are appreciated. Moreover, there have been efforts to reform policies and procedures, which if implemented could contribute to enhancing capacity to manage the site.

However, the deterioration of many components continues to have an adverse impact on the authenticity and integrity of the property and to threaten the attributes which convey its OUV. The 2019 mission expressed great concerns about the overall state of conservation of the property and identified the need for urgent further protection measures. The State Party has acknowledged that a number of temples, the Meroitic city and the Pyramids are in a poor general state of conservation with fabric degrading, and impacts from environmental factors such as flash flooding, wind and sand erosion, rising water tables and humidity, are still ongoing. Moreover, rainfall during September 2020, has resulted in flooding of the Blue Nile and posing a potential threat to the property.

Although the State Party has commenced steps to preserve the property such as preventing vehicle entry, additional efforts are required. It is recommended that the Committee continue to express serious concern at the overall state of conservation of the property, which is seriously threatened on various levels, and urge the State Party to implement fully the recommendations of the 2019 mission. Until conservation of the existing archaeological structures is ensured, no new archaeological excavations should occur. The need for more effective coordination of international archaeological missions, which was highlighted in Decision **43 COM 7B.54**, remains.

The 2019 mission recommended that the State Party elaborate a 5-year Action Plan to carry out activities to address the management structure and legal instruments, inventory and documentation, conservation and restoration, development and community involvement and tourism management. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to prepare a comprehensive action plan, as required by the mission report, to address these matters. This would be a first step towards the development of an efficient management mechanism and could set the groundwork for future update of the Management Plan.

The halt to construction of the entrance building at Kurru is welcome, but other projects such as moving Gebel Barkal museum and the adjacent new visitor centre, removing hotel construction in the vicinity of the property, and building improved tomb covers at Zuma remain outstanding. In light of the encroaching urbanisation, and potential development projects in the property and buffer zone, it is recommended that the Committee remind the State Party of its obligation to submit prior notifications of major projects, which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. This would assist in determining those projects which require further

consideration through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA).

Clarification of the property boundaries and the creation of a buffer zone remain pending. The State Party has acknowledged this challenge and has acquired international support. Discussions are ongoing to develop appropriate regulations. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue its efforts to clarify the boundaries and submit a minor boundary modification for the creation of a buffer zone, as a matter of urgency.

A mission was undertaken to Sudan from 2 to 17 November 2020, with the support of the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund to assess the impact of the 2020 floods on World Heritage properties and other archeological sites in Sudan. The mission resulted in several recommendations regarding pressing issues, including rising groundwater and flooding at the property. An Emergency Assistance request has been submitted and is currently under review.

In order to improve tourism management, and with the support of the Netherlands Fund-in-Trust, UNESCO in collaboration with NCAM, began the implementation of a project in March 2020, with the objective of developing a sustainable tourism strategy for the property, taking into account the aspirations of the local communities. The collaborative work underway with the local community at Kurru was recommended by the 2019 mission as an example to apply more widely.

Urgent measures need to be implemented at the property to reverse the alarming level of deterioration. In light of the information provided and the support needed by the State Party, it is recommended that the Committee call on the international community to support the urgent protection and management work required through financial and technical assistance. At its 43rd session the Committee agreed to allow one more year before considering, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Decision: **43 COM 7B.54**). In view of the circumstances of the property and particular challenges of the past year, it is also recommended that the Committee allow one further year before consideration of the possible inscription of the property in the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.17**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.54**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Commends the State Party for its efforts to implement some Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2019 mission, despite significant challenges;*
4. *Continues to express serious concern at the overall state of conservation of the property, which is seriously threatened by alarming levels of fabric degradation as a result of environmental factors, including heavy rainfall and potential flooding, absence of adequate controls, lack of appropriate maintenance, inadequate museum and storage facilities, lack of management planning, ineffective coordination of archaeological missions, absence of an integrated strategy for the conservation of newly-excavated archaeological features, urban encroachment and development projects, all of which are impacting negatively on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
5. *Requests the State Party to ensure that no new archaeological excavations occur until conservation of the existing archaeological structures is ensured;*
6. *Notes that urgent measures are required at the property to reverse the alarming level of deterioration and also requests the State Party to implement all of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2020 UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund mission as a matter of urgency;*

7. *Reminds* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information of any future works that may affect the OUV of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. *Urges* the State Party to prepare a 5-year comprehensive action plan, as recommended by the monitoring mission to address the management structure, legal instruments, inventories, documentation, conservation, restoration, development, community involvement and tourism management;
9. *Takes note* of the State Party's proposal for a revision of the 2007 Management Plan as appropriate and *encourages* its eventual elaboration by the State Party;
10. *Also urges* the State Party to continue its efforts with regards to defining the boundaries of the property, as a matter of urgency, and *also reminds* the State Party to submit a Minor Boundary Modification, with property delimitations of the buffer zone in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. *Welcomes* the proposed development of a sustainable tourism strategy with funding support from the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust;
12. *Calls on* the international community to support the State Party's urgent protection and management work through financial and technical assistance;
13. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022, **with the view of considering, in the case of continued ascertained danger to the OUV, in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## **18. Archaeological Site of Carthage (Tunisia) (C 37)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1980-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 213,315

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

International Safeguarding Campaign, 1973-1989

### Previous monitoring missions

1980 to 2011: 15 technical missions; January 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Land development and infrastructures within the property
- Legal framework
- Housing
- Management system/management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/37/documents/> and outlines progress in addressing the recommendations of the Committee at its 42nd and 43rd sessions, as follows:

- The main threat to the property is still related to illegal construction activities carried out since the Revolution of Freedom and Dignity of December 2010 – January 2011. The eastern part of the Roman Circus district is the area most impacted by such constructions and associated development pressures. Although construction works were halted at the National Police Officers' Training School in Salammbô, steps to demolish the illegal structures have been delayed. Nevertheless, dozens of illegal structures have already been demolished, and two major waste disposal operations were undertaken;
- A policy of land acquisition has been launched as a means of controlling development pressures at the property. Three plots were purchased in 2018 and another three in 2019, including one in the Roman Circus area. Steps are being taken by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to reclaim land that was confiscated following the Revolution;
- The draft Protection and Presentation Plan (PPMV 2020) for the property has been revised and updated in the light of a minor boundary modification proposal and steps are now being taken to adopt the final version. A maintenance programme for the property is under development;
- As a contribution to the preparation of an archaeological and conservation strategy for the property, an international symposium was organized in July 2019. The symposium's main recommendations include the development of a detailed topographic plan for the property, strengthening the role of preventive archaeological research and the focus on conservation practices, giving appropriate consideration to all structures including hydraulic remains, the creation of an international scientific Advisory Committee, and enhancing the engagement of local communities;

In September 2019, a research unit for preventative archaeology was created within the National Institute of Heritage. It will focus on archaeology in urban areas constituting the envisaged buffer zone.

On 10 March 2020, the National Institute of Heritage informed the World Heritage Centre that the demolition of the illegal construction at the National Police Officer Training School had started.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The work being undertaken to halt illegal construction work and to demolish some of the illegal buildings, including those at the National Police Officers' Training School in Salammbô, is to be commended, although in some cases the demolition processes are being delayed as a result of constraints related to a change of government.

The key measures to start controlling development affecting the property are the new policy of land acquisition and actions taken by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to reclaim land that was confiscated following the Revolution. So far, six plots have been acquired, including one in the Roman Circus area. A minor boundary modification proposal has been submitted for evaluation, and feedback has been provided by the World Heritage Centre requesting further information to ensure the conformity with the *Operational Guidelines* requirements. The creation in September 2019 of a research unit for preventative archaeology within the National Heritage Institute is welcomed.

Although these are all positive steps, some concerns remain unclarified. Although the draft PPMV 2020 has been revised to take into account the minor boundary modification proposal, it is not clear how it will be integrated with the local development plan. No response has been provided to the Committee's

recommendation concerning the preparation and adoption of a Management Plan, nor to the recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission that included setting up communication strategies with local stakeholders and reviewing legislative protection.

Addressing the socio-economic root causes of development pressures remains a key challenge. Although including more land under state ownership would help to restrict development, it cannot be considered as the only tool necessary to mitigate development pressure. It is still necessary to address the way that management of the property relates to the wider urban development plans and tools, and particularly those that relate to socio-economic development. There needs to be more of a symbiotic relationship between the surrounding areas and the property rather than considering the latter as an isolated island. Although this may not seem easy to achieve, given the comparatively small size of the property and its location in a large urban metropolis, it would help provide residents with the opportunity to participate in the enhancement of the site.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.18**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.55**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Commends the State Party for its on-going work to address illegal development and notes that two dozen structures have been demolished and that the demolition of illegal structures started at the National Police Officers' Training School in Salammbô;*
4. *Requests the State Party to expedite the demolition of the remaining illegal structures within the property;*
5. *Also notes the positive progress that has been made with the new policy of land acquisition and measures taken by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to reclaim land that was confiscated during the Revolution, as a means of controlling development pressures, and welcomes the creation of research unit for preventative archaeology within the National Heritage Institute;*
6. *Urges the State Party, to consider further efforts to address the socio-economic root causes of development pressures through wider urban development planning structures and tools in order to generate a more symbiotic relationship between the surrounding areas and the property and to ensure that local residents can participate in the enhancement of the site;*
7. *Further notes that the Protection and Presentation Plan has been revised to reflect the submitted minor boundary modification proposal, and also requests the State Party to adopt this Plan once the boundary modification proposal has been finalized, and set out how it will be integrated with the local development plan;*
8. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to draft and implement a Management Plan to coordinate the management and conservation activities carried out at the property by the concerned stakeholders, and also urges the State Party to consider the recommendations of the 2019 mission that included setting up communication strategies with local stakeholders, and reviewing legislative protection;*
9. *Reminds the State Party of its obligations to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details of all on-going or planned projects, including major restoration and*

*rehabilitation of the property, as well as any new envisaged construction within the property and its surroundings;*

10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*



## ASIA-PACIFIC

### 19. Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains (China) (C 705)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

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

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 21. Zuojiang Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape (China) (C 1508)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List* 2016

*Criteria* (iii)(vi)

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger* N/A

*Previous Committee Decisions* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1508/documents/>

#### *International Assistance*

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1508/assistance/>

#### *UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

N/A

#### *Previous monitoring missions*

N/A

#### *Factors affecting the property identified at the time of inscription*

- Legal framework (Need to put all 38 rock art sites under the highest protection level)
- Management activities (Lack of a conservation/consolidation programme for all the rock art sites; lack of monitoring systems, including a risk preparedness strategy addressing the risk of forest fire)
- Forestry / Wood production (Firewood collection)
- Surface water pollution (Use of fossil fuel for the operation of boats and other facilities in the surrounding villages)
- Land conversion (Risk of the areas for farming growing beyond the present level)

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1508/>

#### *Current Conservation issues*

On 6 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1508/documents/> and presents progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- Ningming Huashan Rock Art Site has been declared a 'National Priority Protected Site'. A submission to have the 37 additional rock art sites located within the property similarly declared was submitted to the National Cultural Heritage Administration in December 2018;
- Sixteen conservation and research projects considering fabric deterioration and the condition of underlying rock have been implemented, with related monitoring programmes. It was planned to complete the investigations for the 37 additional rock art sites by 2020. A system for stronger heritage monitoring and the enforcement of environmental protection law has been implemented, with an annual monitoring report;
- The strengthening of forest fire prevention has been addressed by means of the "Scheme for Strengthening Afforestation and Forest Fire Prevention in Huashan Rock Art Cultural Landscape Heritage Zone" and the "Contingency Plan for Forest Fire", along with improved work measures and educational activities, such as prohibiting open-air fires, and the use of television and radio broadcasts, banners and leaflets to raise fire awareness;
- Efforts have been made to improve the enforcement of forest resource management, part of which is to restrict firewood collection from the forest. Forest areas within the property have been classified as commercial or non-commercial forests, and mechanisms to compensate local people for ecological protection are being explored to help reduce firewood collection and restore a diverse forest ecosystem;
- Chongzuo City has implemented a number of green energy projects, including village-level solar power plants and sewage treatment plants, methane pools, biomass power plants generated from agroforestry, and project agreements for wind-power generation plants. However, except in two cases of tenders for sewage plants, it is not clear how many of these initiatives are actually within the property or buffer zones;
- The areas allocated to farming within the property and its buffer zones are stable, and no obvious increase or decrease in extent has occurred. National agricultural laws are being applied, with action being taken to delimit farmland protection areas, adjust planting structure and enhance crop yields, advocate proper use of fertilizers, and implement measures to prevent agricultural land being turned into development land.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party has made progress in addressing most of the recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription in 2016, which were reiterated in 2018. The inclusion of 37 additional rock art sites as 'National Priority Protected Sites' has been under consideration by the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China since December 2018. The programme of conservation and research projects looking at fabric deterioration and the condition of underlying rock, along with related monitoring, has addressed 16 sites. While the program to include all 38 sites in the property was initially scheduled to be finished by 2020, it does not appear to have started yet.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its encouragement to the State Party to complete the ongoing process of listing all 38 rock art sites within the property as 'National Priority Protected Sites' as soon as possible, so that formal mechanisms for the protection of the OUV can be consistently applied across the property.

The risk of forest fires has been addressed, and efforts to limit firewood collection, restore forest ecological diversity, and compensate the community for its role in ecological protection have been initiated.

Chongzuo City has initiated an ongoing programme of green energy projects within its region to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and at least some of these projects have been within the property. There is no mention of limiting the use of fossil fuels in boats within the property. The areas allocated to farming are reported to be stable, and national agricultural control laws are being applied. The careful monitoring of all of these initiatives is essential to assess their effectiveness and adjust them where necessary to achieve the intended protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The State Party has not reported on the Committee's recommendation that the risk preparedness strategy and the various monitoring systems be consolidated into a single Management Plan.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to complete the formal conservation/consolidation programme already commenced for all the rock art sites, together with consequent monitoring systems; that it complete a formal risk preparedness strategy for inclusion within

the Management Plan; and that it keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the progress made with a) the reduction of the risk of fire and the restriction of firewood collection through management programmes, including incentives for the community to engage in ecological protection; b) the implementation of green energy projects within the property and its buffer zones; c) the implementation of environmentally sustainable alternatives to fossil fuel for the operation of boats; and d) the effectiveness of mechanisms to restrict areas allocated to farming to the present level.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee recall that the State Party should inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.21**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 8B.19** and **42 COM 7B.4**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and its 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished by the State Party on a number of recommendations made by the Committee at the time of the property's inscription on the World Heritage List, and reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to complete the listing of the remaining 37 rock art sites located within the property as 'National Priority Protected Sites' as soon as possible;
4. Also notes the continuing efforts to limit development and activities that might be detrimental to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and recalls that the State Party should inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the property's OUV, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
5. Recommends that the State Party prepare and adopt formal mechanisms to ensure that the OUV of the property, including its authenticity and integrity, is sustained over the long term, including:
  - a) The completion of the conservation/consolidation programme for all the rock art sites, with consequent monitoring systems,
  - b) A risk preparedness strategy for inclusion within the Management Plan that notably addresses the risk of forest fire;
6. Encourages the State Party to keep the Committee informed of progress with:
  - a) The reduction of the risk of fire and the restriction of firewood collection through management programmes, including incentives for the community to engage in ecological protection,
  - b) The implementation of green energy projects within the property and its buffer zones,
  - c) The implementation of environmentally sustainable alternatives to fossil fuel for the operation of boats,
  - d) The implementation of mechanisms to restrict areas allocated to farming to the present level;

7. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, an updated progress report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.*

## **22. Silk Roads: the Routes Network of Chang'an – Tian-shan Corridor (China/Kazakhstan/Kyrgyzstan) (C 1442)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iii)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-In-Trust USD 188,361 (2001-2015): "Preparatory Assistance for the Silk Roads World Heritage nomination in China and Central Asia", "Sustainable Tourism: Silk Road"; "Silk Roads Heritage Corridor in Central Asia and China"; "Enhancing Silk Road Interpretation and Quality Guides Training"; Norway USD 483,414 (2007-2013): "Support the World Heritage serial nominations: Central Asian Petroglyph sites and the Silk Roads"; The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO), 600,000 € (2010-2013): "Silk Roads Cultural Heritage Resource Information System (CHRIS) for Central Asia"; UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust projects: "Support for documentation standards and procedures of the Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination in Central Asia" (Phase I, USD 985,073 from 2011 to 2015); "Support for Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia" (Phase II, USD 697,796 from 2015 to 2018); UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-In-Trust USD 350,000 (2018-2021): "Support for the Serial and Transnational World Heritage Nomination(s) of the Silk Roads in Asia (Phase II)"; European Union 3.4 million € (2018-2022): "Support to Silk Roads Heritage Corridors in Afghanistan, Central Asia and Iran - International Dimension of the European Year of Cultural Heritage".

### Previous monitoring missions

March 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission to the Talgar component site in Kazakhstan; November 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to eight component sites of the serial property in Kazakhstan (Talgar, Kayalyk, Karamergen, Aktobe, Kulan, Kostobe, Ornek sites and the Akyrtaş archaeological complex).

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan (Need to implement the timetables for developing detailed management plans; Need for strategies for conservation of component sites; Need for visitor management strategies, including interpretation)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Urban development (Comparative fragility of many sites)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Proposals for a major road and bridge directly across the Talgar component site in Kazakhstan)
- Housing (Residential development in the buffer zone, near the Talgar Citadel in Kazakhstan)

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/>

### Current conservation issues

On 23 January 2020, the States Parties of China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan submitted a joint state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1442/documents/>, which addresses the Committee's previous decisions as follows:

- The three States Parties have continued coordination efforts, facilitated by the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre in Xi'an (IICC-X, China), which acts as the Secretariat of the Coordinating Committee on Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads. This cooperation includes contributions to the development of laws and regulations, strengthening of monitoring and heritage conservation, and collaboration on the joint state of conservation report. Work on presentation and interpretation continues, along with improved tourism services and infrastructure. Representatives of all three States Parties participated in regional capacity-building workshops in Xi'an, China (July 2019) and the 6th meeting of the Silk Roads Coordinating Committee in Hamadan, Iran (September 2019), which discussed better coordination of protection and management of the property;
- In China, increasing visitation is being addressed through protective measures: studies to establish carrying capacities, live monitoring of visitor numbers, a visitor booking system, off-peak tours, and measures to divert visitors from popular sites. Three component sites face development pressures, one particularly from villages within the property boundaries and buffer zones;
- In Kazakhstan, work continues to update the Law on the Protection and Use of Historical and Cultural Heritage Sites. No final decision has been made regarding the bridge in Talgar, where construction is suspended. Planned road construction will bypass the protective/buffer zones of both Talgar and Kayalyk. The construction of an asphalt road for Akyrtyas, in the buffer zone, has been completed and was subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA);
- In Kyrgyzstan, new technologies enable monitoring and help optimize data collection and research activities. Development pressures near the buffer zone of the ancient settlement of Krasnaya Rechka are currently under review by the State Agency for the Protection of Monuments. Plans for infrastructure work at the ancient settlements of Burana and Krasnaya Rechka are in development, with ongoing coordination between government agencies. Once financial issues are resolved, the State Party intends to submit plans to the World Heritage Committee for approval.

The IICC-X and the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST), a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, are collaborating with the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS, Uzbekistan) to apply space technology applications to monitor the current state of conservation of all 33 component sites of the property. In the framework of this cooperation, scientific research can ensure better protection and management of the Silk Roads cultural heritage.

The World Heritage Centre received an HIA for the re-development and enlargement of Xi'an Railway Station, located in the buffer zone of the Daming Palace component, from the State Party of China on 17 August 2020. Following several exchanges between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, including an on-line consultation meeting on 15 December 2020, an ICOMOS Technical Review on the proposed project was transmitted to the State Party on 11 February 2021.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Continued progress has been made with research, interpretation, stakeholder involvement and monitoring of the property, through public outreach activities that aim to better understand how individual component sites relate to the overall Chang'an-Tianshan corridor and the wider Silk Roads network. The States Parties jointly contribute to the development of laws and regulations and the preparation and improvement of management plans. However, management plans for the component sites and their landscape settings in Kazakhstan do not appear to have been completed yet.

The States Parties have made full use of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee for the Silk Roads World Heritage nomination (ICC) and its Secretariat based at the IICC-X, and it is recommended that the Committee acknowledge this progress and encourage continued efforts in this regard.

It is welcome that the 22 component sites in China are reportedly well monitored and that the majority benefit from conservation master plans and national and local regulations. However, increasing visitation remain concerning, including annual increases of over 70%, although the State Party has responded by conducting new carrying capacity studies. Post-COVID-19 regulations may require the carrying capacities to be further reviewed at all component sites.

The information provided by the State Party of Kazakhstan regarding the bypass route at Talgar is noted, especially the halt to construction and the tentative new delineation of the Birlik-Akbulak Road bypassing all protective zones of the Talgar settlement. No decision has been made yet regarding the dismantling of the bridge partially constructed across the Talgar River in 2016, which was requested by the Committee in Decision **40 COM 7B.34**. The Committee should reiterate its request that, before any commitment is made or any work undertaken, more detailed plans of all proposals should be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, showing the precise route of the road, the location of the new bridge and any demolition or new construction, in one of the two working languages of the Committee (i.e. English or French).

The State Program for the Development of the Tourism Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan foresees the development of tourism resources to improve the accessibility of sites, the management and monitoring systems, and by “creating a favourable tourist climate [...] [and] an effective system for promoting the country's tourism potential in the domestic and international markets”. Construction of an asphalt road at the Akyrtas component site regrettably occurred without prior submission of documentation to the World Heritage Centre, and the impact assessment submitted subsequently has not followed the approach outlined in the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*.

It is also regrettable that the State Party of China did not submit the proposal for re-developing and enlarging the Xi'an Railway Station at an earlier stage, to avert or mitigate adverse impacts on the setting of the Daming Palace component, as detailed in the ICOMOS Technical Review. Had the HIA been prepared earlier and been submitted to the World Heritage Centre with proposed designs, this project might have been amended to avoid its adverse impacts on the setting of the Daming Palace site. However, at this late stage, when construction work is already underway and the project is due for completion in July 2021, it is not feasible to recommend changes that might mitigate the adverse impacts in any meaningful way. It is recommended that the Committee remind the States Parties of the provisions of Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* regarding any major restoration or new construction which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and that such plans, including assessment of potential impacts on the property's OUV, should be submitted as soon as possible and before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse. In the case of this serial transnational property, it is recommended that coordination should also be sought through the ICC.

The State Party of Kyrgyzstan's efforts to address development issues in the buffer zones of the Ak-Beshim and Krasnaya Rechka settlements are noted. It is recommended that the Committee strongly encourage the inscription of the boundaries and buffer zones of all inscribed component sites on cadastral maps.

The use of new technologies to monitor Silk Roads sites is strongly encouraged, particularly in view of the size and remoteness of some components. The cooperation of IICC-X, HIST and IICAS to apply the use of space technologies to monitor and assess the state of conservation of the property is therefore welcomed, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the States Parties to share good practice examples on the use of new technologies, including for dissemination via the World Heritage Centre's website.

Finally, as better protection and management of this serial transnational World Heritage property requires coordination at both national and transnational levels, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party of Kazakhstan to establish a World Heritage Steering Committee for the Silk Roads in Kazakhstan and develop effective coordination with China and Kyrgyzstan for the management of the overall serial property through the existing agreements and arrangement.

## **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.22**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.34**, **41 COM 7B.88** and **42 COM 7B.5** adopted at its 40th (Istanbul, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and its 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,
3. Notes that progress has been made with research, interpretation, stakeholder involvement and monitoring along the property, including public outreach activities, and that the States Parties jointly contribute to the development of laws and regulations and to the preparation and improvement of Management Plans, encourages all three States Parties to continue their collaborative efforts in these key areas, and reiterates its request that any outstanding management plan be finalized as a matter of priority, taking into consideration the outcomes of the November 2016 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Notes with satisfaction that the three States Parties have made good use of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee for the Silk Roads World Heritage nomination (ICC), and notably of its Secretariat based at the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre-Xi'an (IICC-X, China), for information management and capacity-building activities, and also encourages the continuation of this practice to continuously improve the coordination of the protection and management of the property;
5. Also notes the reported increase in visitor numbers at some component sites, along with the steps taken to address this potential issue, notably by conducting new carrying capacity studies, and further encourages the States Parties to review carrying capacities at all component sites in the light of post-COVID-19 health and safety regulations, while ensuring that visitor management places sustainability and the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) at its core;
6. Further notes the information provided by the State Party of Kazakhstan regarding the bypass route at Talgar, and also reiterates its request that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre more detailed plans of these proposals, showing the precise route of the road, the location of the new bridge and any demolition or new construction, in one of the working languages of the Committee (i.e. English or French), for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any commitment is made or any work undertaken;
7. Notes furthermore that no decision has been made yet regarding the dismantling of the bridge partially constructed across the Talgar River in 2016, which was requested in previous decisions, and further reiterates its request to the State Party of Kazakhstan to provide this information, once tentative plans have been outlined, for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse;
8. Regrets that the State Party of Kazakhstan did not provide any of the requested information concerning road management prior to the joint report, notably for the component sites of Akyrtas, Kostobe, and for the adjusted route of the A3 Ust-Kamenogorsk-Almaty road that avoids the buffer zone of the Kayalyk component, and that work progressed without prior review by the Advisory Bodies; also regrets that the State Party of China did not submit the proposal for the re-development and enlargement of the Xi'an Railway Station located in the buffer zone of the Daming Palace component in a timely manner to prevent the project's adverse impacts on the setting of the site; and

*urges the three States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, details of any major restoration or new construction which may affect the OUV of the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, as soon as possible and before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*

9. *Reiterates furthermore its request to the State Party of Kazakhstan to establish a World Heritage Steering Committee for the component sites in Kazakhstan and to develop effective coordination with China and Kyrgyzstan for the management of the overall serial transnational property through the existing agreements and management mechanisms, and encourages furthermore the three States Parties to ensure the effective and coordinated conservation and management of component sites through the ICC, particularly with regard to development projects and their impact to the property;*
10. *Also takes note of the efforts of the State Party of Kyrgyzstan to address development issues in the buffer zones of the Ak-Beshim and Krasnaya Rechka settlements, and strongly encourages all three States Parties to ensure that the boundaries and buffer zones of all inscribed component sites are duly inscribed in cadastral maps;*
11. *Encourages moreover the three States Parties to use new technologies to monitor all component sites of the property; calls upon them and all concerned partners to work closely with the IICC-X, the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) and the International Institute for Central Asian Studies (IICAS) to use space technology applications to monitor the state of conservation of the property; and invites them to share good practice examples with the World Heritage Centre, so that they may be made available to other States Parties on the World Heritage Centre's website;*
12. *Requests the three States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023.*

### **23. Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar (India) (C 1502)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1502/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1502/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A



### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Management systems / Management Plan (lack of an Integrated Master Plan of Nalanda; need for strengthened approaches to visitor management and interpretation)
- Other (lack of appropriate documentation to establish the authenticity of the property)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1502/>

### Current conservation issues

On 13 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1502/documents/> and presents progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions as follows:

- The Integrated Master Plan is at an advanced stage of development and will incorporate recommendations and regulations for development plans within or in the vicinity of the property that may have an impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), authenticity or integrity;
- Conservation works have been carried out based on a 5-year plan between 2014 and 2019. A conservation plan for the next 5 years has been developed and identifies conservation works to be undertaken each year;
- A visitor management plan is being developed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as part of the Management Plan for the property. In the meantime, works on amenities for visitors and site interpretation have already started and some have been completed. The visitor management component of the site management plan will notably address the following aspects: revision of the on-site interpretation system and of the content of the interpretive panels; re-direction of the visitor circulation path; universal accessibility to the maximum possible areas of the property, while avoiding impacts on the excavated remains; upgrade of the existing museum and interpretation centre located in the buffer zone to offer improved exhibitions and content; capacity studies and impact assessments for proposed developments; allocation of public amenities, including washrooms, drinking water points, a ticket counter, dustbins, signage.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has made progress on a number of the recommendations made by the Committee in 2018. In particular, the development of a visitor management plan, to be incorporated into the Management Plan for the property, is underway. It is also noted that the Integrated Master Plan is currently being prepared and will establish a context to assess the impacts that any future development proposal might have on the OUV of the property, as recommended at the time of the property's inscription in 2016 and reiterated by the Committee in 2018.

The State Party has indicated that the preparation of a Management Plan is being undertaken by ASI, in response to the Committee's request to work out a conservation plan for the excavated remains of the property. No details or timeframe for the development of the Management Plan were provided, and it is noted that the report refers to the 5-year work plans as 'conservation plans'. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that a formal conservation plan be developed and integrate management and conservation to safeguard the OUV and authenticity of the property.

The State Party's report does not provide a specific response to the Committee's encouragement to establish a research programme with a particular focus on establishing the authenticity of the property, along with corresponding documentation that differentiates the authentic archaeological fabric from repairs. The lack of clarity between authentic fabric and a hundred years of successive layers of later stabilization and conservation fabric remains a concern, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to undertake this important research work in order to help define the authenticity of the fabric.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.23**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.6**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Acknowledges the progress made by State Party on a number of its previous recommendations;
4. Takes note of the continuing conservation work and the development of visitor facilities at the property, of the progress accomplished with the preparation of a visitor management plan, to be incorporated in site Management Plan, and with the preparation of the Integrated Master Plan, which will incorporate recommendations and regulations regarding any development plan within or in the vicinity of the property, and requests the State Party to provide a timeframe for their completion;
5. Also requests the State Party to develop a research programme focused specifically on defining the authenticity of the property, including the necessary documentation to identify authentic archaeological fabric, as encouraged in its earlier Decision;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to establish a formal conservation plan for the excavated remains of the property in order to safeguard the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and authenticity;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

#### **24. Hill Forts of Rajasthan (India)(C 247rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2013

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing (Urban development in wider setting of Chittorgarh Fort)
- Mining (Industrial mining activities in wider setting of Chittorgarh Fort)

- Management systems / Management Plan (Interpretation strategy for the overall ensembles of palaces, temples and fortifications)
- Management activities (Vulnerabilities of certain individual structures within the forts requiring short-term conservation actions at Jaisalmer and Chittorgarh Forts)
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Illegal activities
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Industrial areas

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/247/documents/> and provides information on the actions undertaken to implement the Committee's previous decisions as follows:

- The Site Management Plan (SMP) for Jaisalmer Fort, including a brief time-bound action plan, has been finalized following consultations with various stakeholders, including the State and District administrations and local residents. It identifies 18 issues to be addressed, including the improvement of infrastructure, waste disposal and hygiene conditions; conservation works on the structures (which contribute to the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value - OUV); and key components of the management system, including monitoring mechanisms, relevant research records, risk management planning, interpretation planning, and financial incentives;
- Conservation works undertaken at Jaisalmer Fort include several pitching wall sections and bulging stonework of outer bastion no. 38;
- Conservation and repair works undertaken at Chittorgarh Fort include: restoration of walls and pathways; repair of roadside railings; construction of fences (various sections), masonry pedestals and grills; restoration of stone wall at Manpura Bhanpura Haveli; site preparation works for the restoration of the Baori between Kumbha Palace and Vijay Stambh; restoration of damaged fortification walls near More Magari, Ratan Singh Palace, and Hathi Kund/Khatan Baowri; restoration of Nagina Moti Bazar and adjacent fortification; repair to signs, benches and bins; and establishment of total station survey;
- Infrastructure improvement works at Jaisalmer Fort, undertaken by the Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project, include sewerage (completed, with the exception of the Mori portion), water supply (completed), and electric and telephone cables (completed);
- Regulations are in place to address unauthorized constructions (or 'encroachments');
- Concerning the legal challenge to mining and blasting controls in the setting of Chittorgarh Fort, under consideration by the Supreme Court of India, the State Party quotes from the 2012 High Court order that controls these activities. The State Party also states that no mining or blasting has been detected in the area surrounding the Chittorgarh Fort in the past four years.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Concerning the legal challenge to mining and blasting controls in the setting of Chittorgarh Fort, it is recommended that the State Party continue its efforts to ensure that no mining or blasting occurs. Information about the works carried out to repair elements of Jaisalmer and Chittorgarh Forts is noted.

The progress made on the SMP for Jaisalmer Fort, an important component of the management system for the serial property, should be welcomed. Overall, the SMP represents a satisfactory overarching document, but key elements remain priorities for continued work.

The SMP has a vision to conserve the historic built fabric while also sustaining the living traditions and values of the 'living fort'. It is structured to first identify management issues, which are translated into objectives. This could be further strengthened by incorporating a clear sense of the values and their attributes, in order to ensure that the property's OUV is sustained.

The SMP's 18 objectives are derived from an analysis of the issues and vary from short-term, specific outcomes to longer-term, ongoing conservation works (including repair and maintenance). A substantial short-term agenda is foreseen for implementation, but without details about resourcing and capacity.

Although some overarching objectives and general intentions are outlined, and a range of immediate and short-term actions to enhance the visitor experience are listed, including an interpretation centre, tourist information centres, tourism paths and signage for visitors, the requested sub-plan for visitor management has not yet been produced. This sub-plan is needed to guide these and other initiatives and should be considered a priority. More details were provided on the sub-plan for risk management, although many of its actions appear to be 'mid-term', and the strategy needs to be better articulated as an operationally oriented framework that also includes capacity building. The SMP addresses the requested sub-plan for livelihood generation for the local population; however, it is noted that this will require a framework to support ongoing and long-term actions, including the effectiveness of the implementation of regulations and other measures to curtail unauthorised constructions or encroachments.

It is welcomed that practical guidelines for repairs and conservation works have been developed to support the maintenance of the different precincts within the Fort, and that a 'comprehensive conservation plan' for the fort will be developed within a year, with a long-term program for conservation works to follow. This is an important part of the continued development of the management system. Planned monitoring and maintenance approaches, including the periodicity of measurement and agency responsibilities, could be further developed to monitor more explicitly the condition of the attributes of OUV. This would notably facilitate reporting, especially in view of the upcoming Periodic Reporting exercise.

It is noted that, at present, the SMP stands outside of the legal protection system, and that the State Party intends to 'provide a legal backup' to ensure its implementation. The State-Level Fort Apex Committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary and established by an Executive Order of the Government of Rajasthan, provides a coordinated management mechanism across the six inscribed forts in Rajasthan. The SMP provides a revised proposal that retains this Committee, but also establishes the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority (JFMA) with day-to-day implementation and monitoring responsibilities for this component. The JFMA will be established according to the provisions of the Urban Development Act of the Rajasthan Government.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.24**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.65** , **40 COM 7B.35**, and **42 COM 7B.7**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 42nd sessions (Manama, 2018) respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the finalisation of the Site Management Plan (SMP) for Jaisalmer Fort, and requests the State Party to report on progress concerning the resourcing and implementation of the planned actions, including the following high-priority matters:*
  - a) *Effectiveness of the implementation of regulations and other measures to curtail unauthorised constructions and/or encroachments,*
  - b) *Efforts to incorporate the SMP into the legal protection system and ongoing efforts to clarify the ownership of property,*
  - c) *Development of the sub-plan for visitor management for Jaisalmer Fort, as a key part of the management system that will guide the development of appropriately designed and in-situ facilities and other initiatives to enhance the visitor experience, and requirement that Heritage Impact Assessments be conducted for all new facilities within the property boundaries or the buffer zone,*
  - d) *Development of the sub-plans for risk preparedness and livelihood generation for the local population, to ensure that they can be operationalized and implemented, taking into account the need for capacity building,*

- e) *Development of the foreseen comprehensive Conservation Plan, together with detailed plans for maintenance of Jaisalmer Fort,*
  - f) *Development of detailed and action-oriented monitoring of the condition of the World Heritage property, based on a clear articulation of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and attributes,*
  - g) *Adoption of the SMP by the Fort Apex Committee, including resourcing, priorities and intended timeframes for the implementation of the plan,*
  - h) *Implementation of the proposed management framework, including the establishment of the Jaisalmer Fort Management Authority, and articulation of its capacities and priority activities;*
4. *Notes the information provided about the completion of infrastructure work for water supply, sewerage and electrical/telephone cables for Jaisalmer Fort, as well as on conservation and repair works undertaken at Jaisalmer Fort and Chittogarh Fort;*
  5. *Also welcomes the advice from the State Party that no mining or blasting has occurred in the area surrounding the Chittogarh Fort since the inscription of the serial property, strongly encourages the State Party to ensure that such activities are not resumed, and also requests the State Party to submit, as a matter of priority, further information on progress towards the final resolution of the legal challenge that is being considered by the Supreme Court of India;*
  6. *Encourages the State Party to ensure that all development projects within the property and buffer zones, including all major conservation and restoration projects, new visitor facilities and major adaptive reuse projects, are subject to Heritage Impact Assessments, in line with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance, and that information about any project that could have an impact on the OUV of the property is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
  7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **25. Historic City of Ahmadabad (India) (C 1551)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ii)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription:

- Low-impact research / monitoring activities (Lack of comprehensive and accurate documentation of the historic buildings of the property)
- Commercial development, Housing (Potential impact of new constructions and development projects on the western section of the property and its buffer zone)
- Management Systems / Management Plans (Lack of effective implementation of the Heritage Management Plan; Incomplete Local Area Heritage Plan; Lack of a visitor management plan)
- Human resources (Need to enrich the Heritage Department at Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation with relevant capacity building and technical capacity)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/>

### Current conservation issues

On 9 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1551/documents> and provides the following information:

- The documentation of historic buildings has progressed with the implementation of an initial sample survey (8 buildings) and the establishment of a panel of architects to assist with the work. The documentation method includes measured drawings; photographic documentation of elevations, interiors and roof constructions; and a rapid condition assessment. In January 2019, a workshop was conducted in collaboration with the University of York (United Kingdom) and CEPT University (Ahmadabad, India) to disseminate knowledge about documentation methods. By November 2019, the documentation of 70 buildings was completed. Because of the vast scale of work required and the large number of residential properties, the State Party estimates that this work will be completed by July 2021;
- Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) have been undertaken for eight projects. It is mandatory for HIAs to be submitted with the project applications;
- Restoration works have been completed for approximately 2.5 km of city walls and three city gates;
- The Common Gujarat Development Control Regulations (CGDCR) were revised in 2019, with a dedicated section on the heritage of Ahmadabad. It establishes the Core Walled City Zone and describes the important typological characteristics of the *pol* houses and related policies. New incentives for homeowners have been introduced;
- Early steps have been taken to prepare a comprehensive Conservation Plan that will include the provisions of the Local Area Plan and the Visitor Management Plan. This is expected to be completed in December 2020;
- To strengthen the heritage capacities of the Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation, the 'Ahmadabad World Heritage City Trust' has been established and several key specialist positions have been appointed. Various community engagement and awareness activities have been initiated.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The progress towards the documentation of historic buildings in Ahmadabad is welcomed and constitutes an essential foundation for the long-term management and preservation of the city's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Not only should such documentation be curated as a static archive, but the State Party should also be encouraged to continue considering how it can be effectively incorporated into the management system, so that the records assist decision-making and monitoring processes, ensuring that future changes are recorded. The State Party advises that this work will be completed by July 2021; however, given that there could be more than 2,000 buildings to record, many of which are residences, this timeframe for completion could be ambitious.

The request for HIAs in relation to all applications for development is welcomed as an important component of urban World Heritage management systems. The concerns raised by the ICOMOS Evaluation related in particular to developments on the western side of the property and in the buffer zone, but it is not clear from the material provided by the State Party whether these have now been fully

addressed. The State Party has indicated that no high-rise development is permitted, but it is not clear whether this provision also applies to the buffer zone as well as the inscribed urban area. It is also recommended that HIA be applied to heritage restoration projects, since these can have impacts on the values of the property that should be understood in advance.

Following the inscription, media reports highlighted problems associated with traffic congestion, pollution and neglected *pol* buildings in poor condition. The State Party's response of May 2018 regarding the efforts made by the Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation to monitor and address these long-term challenges is noted. In 2019, the State Party provided information about the Hutheesing Jain Temple, noting that some conservation work had been completed, but that further restoration works awaited the required financial resources. Concerns from civil society have also been received about the state of conservation of the Said Tomb of Hazarat Qutub-e-Aalam, demonstrating the scale of the needed programme of conservation works; there have been forwarded to the State Party with a request for feedback, in line with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Improvements to the local regulations to support the conservation of the urban fabric of Ahmadabad are welcomed, particularly for the *pol* houses. The extent of the newly established Core Walled City Zone is not indicated, but is presumed to correlate with the boundaries of the World Heritage property; it is suggested that an accurate map, realized in accordance with the specifications of Annex 5, point 1.e of the *Operational Guidelines*, be provided along with the text of the regulations (in English).

While a number of tourism and visitor management actions have been implemented, the creation of the Visitor Management Plan is considered an essential component of the management system. Recalling the Committee's recommendation that the Local Area Plan be completed, with a special focus on the conservation of wooden houses, the updated information on the process and expected timeframes for the Heritage Conservation Plan (including the Local Area Plan and the Visitor Management Plan) is noted.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.25**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 41 COM 8B.17, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Welcomes the information provided by the State Party concerning the progress made with the documentation of buildings in the city and the scheduled completion of the Conservation Plan (encompassing the provisions of the Local Area Plan and Visitor Management Plan) by December 2020, and requests the State Party to prioritize the completion of these key elements of the management system and to provide updated information concerning:*
  - a) *The completion of the documentation of historic buildings and structures in the city, particularly the distinctive 'pol' housing, planned for July 2021,*
  - b) *The completion of the Conservation Plan, incorporating the Local Area Plan and Visitor Management Plan, planned for December 2020,*
  - c) *The completion of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) for all major new constructions in the western section of property and in the buffer zone,*
  - d) *The continued efforts to address issues of traffic congestion, pollution and the neglected 'pol' buildings in poor condition;*
4. *Also welcomes the information provided by the State Party regarding the establishment of the Ahmadabad World Heritage City Trust, and also requests the State Party to continue its efforts to strengthen the capacities for urban heritage conservation at the municipal level;*

5. *Notes the changes to the regulations for Ahmadabad in the Common Gujarat Development Control Regulations and the establishment of the Core Walled City Zone, and further requests that an accurate map, realized in accordance with the specifications of the Operational Guidelines, be provided the World Heritage Centre along with the text of the regulations (in English);*
6. *Also notes that HIAs are required for all new developments and urges the State Party to ensure that development projects in the buffer zone are also subject to this requirement, and that information about any planned project that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## 26. Mountain Railways of India (India) (C 944ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2001 to 2004)

Total amount approved: USD 58,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 533,332 via a self-benefiting Funds-in-Trust project by the Indian Railways, set up at the UNESCO Office in New Delhi for the establishment of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Framework

### Previous monitoring missions

Joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring Mission, 6-13 December 2019

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management Systems/Management Plan (Lack of an adapted management plan; Lack of a heritage conservation unit; Absence of a Buffer Zone)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/>

### Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) and the Kalka Shimla Railway in December 2019. The mission report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944/documents>. In January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, also available at the above-mentioned web address. This report relates only to the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) component of the property (i.e. not to the Nilgiri Railway or Kalka Shimla Railway components) and provides the following information:



- Indian Railways is committed to conserving the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. A conservation and management unit has been established for DHR. Train services continue, using some steam locomotives more than 100 years old. Patronage has increased from 64,030 in 2017 to 92,310 in 2019. A Funds-in-Trust project agreement with UNESCO provides for “Development of Comprehensive Conservation Maintenance Plan (CCMP) for Darjeeling Himalayan Railway World Heritage Site through Effective Stakeholders’ Empowerment”. The CCMP is nearing completion, prior to submission to the Committee. The property boundary and buffer zone are addressed in the CCMP and the boundary will include land owned by Indian Railways at the time of inscription;
- The marking of the property and the replacement of sleepers are on-going;
- DHR has operated for more than 138 years with almost no accidents because of proper maintenance of trains, track and infrastructure. Funding has increased for maintenance and safe operations. Since 2018, 39 coaches and seven steam locomotives have been overhauled and returned to service. In view of safe operations requirements, and owing to the non-availability of wood, dilapidated wooden sleepers have mostly been replaced with concrete ones, but wood sleepers have been used at some stations;
- Rehabilitation work has returned both Gayabari and Sonada stations, severely damaged by civil unrest in 2017, to their original form and full operation. The Kurseong Railway Printing Press has closed, but select machinery is retained in use on site as a museum;
- Waste dumping has been addressed through cleanliness drives and local coordination;
- There has been no new encroachment by illegal construction since the inscription of the property, owing to monitoring and regular follow-up;
- Celebrations of the 20th anniversary of World Heritage inscription occurred in late 2019 to promote awareness about the heritage value of the DHR component of the property.

In August 2020, the State Party confirmed that heavy monsoonal rainfall had induced landslides along the route of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, but that repairs were in progress and that the line was already not operating owing to implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) and Kalka Shimla Railway (KSR) components of the property are reported to retain their operational and functional integrity. Ongoing commitment by Northeast Frontier Railway to provide specialised skills and equipment for the maintenance of steam locomotives and rolling stock remains critical to continuing railway operations, which are a key attribute of the property’s OUV. No information has been provided by the State Party or the 2019 mission in relation to the Nilgiri Railway component of the property.

The recent reconstruction and restoration of Gayabari and Sonada station buildings, severely damaged by civil unrest in 2017, and the programme of sleeper replacement are positive initiatives, as is the Track Maintenance Manual being developed as part of the CCMP process. However, the recent modernisation of Kalka and Shimla stations on the KSR, without apparent input from relevant heritage experts, is regrettable, and the State Party should be reminded of its obligations under Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Station buildings and other elements of industrial heritage at the DHR and KSR remain at risk if professional heritage expertise is not involved in planning, management, maintenance, conservation and adaptation.

The draft CCMP has been developed in liaison with the UNESCO Office in New Delhi and Indian Railways. The draft CCMP responds to the recommendations made by ICOMOS in 1999 at the time of inscription and Decision **43 COM 7B.62**, through provisions for establishment of a heritage conservation unit, clarification of the boundary and buffer zone, policy and legal instruments to improve protection, and proposed review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies.

The boundary of the DHR component is still being negotiated. The buffer zone proposed in the draft CCMP is subject to discussions with various public stakeholders that have jurisdictional duties over the area and landowners. The draft CCMP recommends that management arrangements for the buffer zone be agreed through a Memorandum of Understanding. Encroachment on the DHR’s land and operations has been addressed, but potential negative impacts remain from nearby developments. The ongoing management of waste in the DHR and KSR should be addressed in consultation with relevant authorities, and local communities.

In view of the nature of the OUV of the property and its setting in a vibrant and developing environment, the CCMP should be augmented with associated policies addressing matters such as sustainable development, notably a formal consultation and decision-making mechanism for the property and buffer zone, which is key to the successful implementation of the management framework and actions.

Legal recognition of the railways as heritage sites would strengthen public and government recognition of their values and potentially broaden the range of heritage expertise available to advise decision making. It is desirable that the current management structure be strengthened with professional heritage conservation expertise engaged at the line-management level of the railways, rather than relying on contract heritage expertise engaged on a project-by-project basis. A heritage unit with in-house heritage conservation expertise should be established and integrated to the management of all three component railways. Further awareness raising and capacity building are required for the property's non-heritage staff.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.26**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.62**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Takes note that the State Party has provided an extensive state of conservation report on the Darjeeling Himalaya Railway (DHR) component of the property, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre similarly detailed reports for the Nilgiri Railway (NR) and Kalka Shimla Railway (KSR) components;*
4. *Welcomes the State Party's advice that the DHR and KSR components of the property retain their operational and functional integrity, that repair, reconstruction, restoration and maintenance works continue to facilitate steam train operations, which are critical to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), that encroachment and waste dumping have been addressed, and that a conservation and management unit has been established for the property, and also requests the State Party to establish integrated heritage units with in-house heritage conservation expertise for each of the three component railways;*
5. *Also takes note of the progress made towards determination of the boundary and buffer zone, and completion of the Comprehensive Conservation Maintenance Plan (CCMP) for the DHR component of the property, and reiterates its request that, prior to formal adoption, this plan be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with information about any restoration and proposed projects and their potential impact on the OUV of the property, including detailed information on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), prepared in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, and in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Further takes note of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission's recommendations, and requests furthermore the State Party to implement them, particularly by:*
  - a) *Establishing comprehensive, up-to-date Management Plans for the KSR and NR components,*

- b) *Completing the CCMP for DHR and preparing, adopting or revising, as necessary, related management guidance documents,*
  - c) *Establishing an official decision-making and implementation mechanism for DHR, including consultation with stakeholders and participation of local organisations and community groups,*
  - d) *Investigating the legislative recognition of heritage values,*
  - e) *Sustaining mechanical and functional operation for all three component railways,*
  - f) *Strengthening the national capacity of Indian Railways (IR) for the management of heritage-related components and aspects of the property in order to inform the decision-making process with professional heritage conservation expertise,*
  - g) *Exploring the training opportunities for managers and staff of the IR to raise their awareness of holistic heritage values of the property, including non-heritage staff,*
  - h) *Ensuring that ongoing and future maintenance, repair, conservation or adaption for new uses of station buildings, architectural elements and associated structures is guided by specific conservation guidelines consistent with preservation of the attributes that justify the OUV of the property,*
  - i) *Gathering baseline data by inventorying, recording and gathering historical plans and documents for all important elements, and systematic inventorying of all moveable heritage associated with the railways and their history, and providing adequate display and storage conditions,*
  - j) *Promoting the three component sites and their respective history and values in order to contribute to the holistic understanding of the property;*
8. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal to clarify the property's boundaries and define a buffer zone for each of the three component railways, along with details of proposed policy and legal instruments to improve the protection and management of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023.*

## **27. Susa (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (C 1455)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1455/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1455/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Threats identified at the time of inscription of the property in 2015:

- Management activities (Insufficient protection measures for archaeological remains and mounds within the buffer zone)
- Management systems/Management Plan (Lack of risk preparedness considerations in the Susa Development Plan and in the management framework of the property)
- Housing, Commercial Development (Urban pressure)
- Water (rain/water table) (Extreme climatic conditions (erosion due to heavy rains))

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1455/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1455/documents> and provides information on the progress achieved with the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), as follows:

- The Susa World Heritage Base and the Shush Municipality met to harmonize territorial and urban planning tools with the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The municipality will deliver an outline of all future planning projects to the Susa World Heritage Base for comments and adjustments by the Base in order to maintain the property's integrity and authenticity;
- A list of commitments made through inter-institutional agreements is noted, alongside a defined period of implementation to measure their effectiveness. Several development projects in the buffer zone were discontinued due to misalignment with the regulations of the property;
- A Tourism Development Plan for Shush City is under development. It will be expanded and implemented over the next decade. A new archaeological site entrance will be constructed after approval from the Susa World Heritage Base Steering Committee;
- In 2018, an initial draft scheme of short-, medium- and long-term plans was developed as a precursor to a complete Risk Management Plan, with the primary goal of predicting and preventing damage during a crisis;
- In 2018, 360 ha of the property were archaeologically mapped, and the data were published and made available through the property's documentation centre;
- A plan has been developed and integrated for the reorganisation and physical demarcation of the boundaries of the property;
- The identification of 25 archaeological hills in Shush City for registration on the National Heritage List was initiated, with 40 additional hills to be added in an upcoming phase;
- A survey plan for the protection and restoration of Susa Castle has been prepared following the earthquakes of 2014 and 2017;
- A second phase of the project to document and interpret brick inscriptions was undertaken;
- The upgrade and optimization of storage are ongoing, including upgrades to storage buildings, transfer of objects to secure storage areas, and reorganisation and registration of objects;
- The Susa World Heritage Base is pursuing awareness-raising activities for the general population, local stakeholders and tourists, and inter-university and -institutional cooperation;
- Various emergency measures and infrastructural activities were undertaken, including the removal of excess vegetation, the recoating of architectural remains and the installation of utilities, including CCTV.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party has shown its commitment to improving the state of conservation of the property, in accordance with past Committee decisions. The commitment to conservation is evident through the State Party's continued efforts in strengthening inter-institutional cooperation, archaeological mapping, on-site conservation of buildings, and storage and cataloguing of artefacts, as well as through the implementation of various emergency measures and infrastructural conservation. Responsible tourism initiatives and awareness-raising activities are ongoing, while expert workshops and university/institutional cooperation further contribute to improving the knowledge base and state of conservation of the property and provide support to the Susa World Heritage Base. The marking of the property boundaries is welcomed, and the design for the new entrance gate to the archaeological zone is of an appropriate scale. It is therefore recommended that the Committee commend the State Party for all its efforts.

However, concerns remain regarding the urban environment of the buffer and landscape zones, and the alignment of existing urban spatial planning measures with the OUV of the property. While much progress has been made, continued monitoring, consultation and adjustments should be undertaken to ensure territorial and urban planning upstream process be guided to preserve the property's OUV.

The initial draft scheme of short-, medium-, and long-term plans needs to be further developed from a precursor into a complete draft Risk Management Plan in order to facilitate risk preparedness and mitigate impacts from nature- or human-induced disasters. It is recommended that the Committee request the draft Risk Management Plan to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before its final adoption.

Finally, it is noted that the framework for the draft Risk Management Plan for the property does not foresee the review or update of the plan itself. Further measures should also be taken to define inter-institutional management indicators, based not only on specific project outcomes, but also to measure the effectiveness of continued cooperation processes between the stakeholder institutions. It is also recommended that the State Party avail the necessary financial resources and institutional capacity for a review of the Management Framework in the medium term, to accommodate the new insights brought to light by the investigative identification and documentation projects undertaken by the State Party and its partners.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.27**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined* Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. *Recalling* Decisions **39 COM 8B.13** and **41 COM 7B.93**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,
3. *Commends* the progress made by the State Party in responding to its previous decisions and *acknowledges* the conservation measures implemented in the property and its buffer zone;
4. *Reiterates its request* to the State Party to continue harmonizing existing territorial and urban planning regulations by integrating the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property into the regulations related to the property, its buffer and landscape zones, and to ensure continued monitoring of operations in these areas;
5. *Requests* the State Party to complete the Risk Management Plan and its integration into the Susa Development Plan and the Management framework, and to submit this Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

6. *Also requests the State Party to define a set of indicators to measure the continued effectiveness of the inter-institutional agreements, and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to avail, in the medium term, the necessary financial resources and institutional capacity for a review of the Management Framework of the property;*
8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022 at the latest, the items listed in Paragraphs 5-6 of the present decision for review by the Advisory Bodies.*

## **28. The Persian Qanat (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (C 1506)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1506/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1506/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Management activities (Need to collect data related to each Qanat and make it accessible to members of the local communities; Lack of permanent marking of the boundaries of property components and buffer zones on the ground)
- Management systems / Management Plans (Need to extend the management strategy and plans to include a risk preparedness strategy and a comprehensive tourism strategy for all property components; Need to extend the monitoring system to identify the responsible authority for each key indicator)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1506/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1506/documents/>. The report presents the State Party's progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions as follows:

- Completion of a Risk Management Plan for the World Heritage property and identification of short-, mid- and long-term goals;
- Continued enrichment of both the central documentation centre, established in 2018, and the local documentation centres. This material is made available through publications and online;

- Extension of the management monitoring system by identifying the national and local authorities responsible for each key indicator; signing appropriate management agreements; conducting regular monitoring visits; and sharing outcomes through correspondences and meetings;
- Progress towards the completion of the permanent marking of the boundaries of the property;
- Monthly management meetings to review the overall progress of the management of the 11 component parts of the property;
- Development of guidelines concerning the management of the property and distribution to the relevant stakeholders for each component site.

**Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM**

The State Party's report demonstrates that considerable progress is being made with the management of this complex serial property, which clearly presents many challenges due both to the nature of this human-made, underground irrigation system and to the 23 national and local authorities that are identified as having a direct interest in its management.

The new Risk Management Plan is to be welcomed. The plan has as its goal the conservation and protection of the traditional management systems of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The plan classifies physical, natural and human risk factors to the property, such as the construction of new wells, a lack of dredging in the tunnels, the collapse of the vertical access shafts, water contamination, loss of knowledge of the traditional maintenance systems, and natural hazards such as droughts, floods and earthquakes. The Risk Management Plan has analysed the effects of these current and predicted risks on both the physical structure of the property and its OUV and proposes practical solutions. It identifies 22 specific pre-crisis preventative measures that must be taken now, 5 measures to be taken during an actual crisis, and 7 post-crisis measures, as well as mid-term and long-term measures. The key to the success of this approach will be the development of identified monitoring mechanisms and measures. The approach to risk is sensible and pragmatic but will depend on the coordination and commitment of the many stakeholders involved. The suggestion that new materials, such as cement and cement coils, should be introduced to support Qanat tunnels instead of traditional 'mud-made' ones will need to be considered carefully, if the authenticity of the property is not to be impaired.

The Risk Management Plan states as one of its goals the presentation of the property, and both the plan and the State Party in its report more generally refer, on a number of occasions, to tourism issues and initiatives, such as the design of a tourism complex around Qasem Abad Qanat and the design of brochures for the 11 Qanats. However, there is still no overarching sustainable tourism plan with clear objectives related to the OUV of the property, nor any accompanying indicators to measure the success of such a strategy, as previously urged by the World Heritage Committee. The property clearly still needs a unified approach to presentation. The State Party also recognizes that potential long-term lifestyle changes and development could lead to a destructive environment for the Qanat, but there is no specific mention on measures to monitor and address this potential impact in the Plan. Progress has been made on some of the other recommendations made by the Committee at the time of inscription, including the continuous enrichment of the central and local documentation centres, the identification of institutional roles and responsibilities, and provision for regular monitoring. The permanent marking of the boundaries of the property still requires completion.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.28**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 8B.21**, **41 COM 8B.49** and **42 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,
3. Requests the State Party to include, as a matter of priority, a section on sustainable tourism management in the integrated management system, with clear objectives related

to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, notably its authenticity and integrity, along with relevant monitoring indicators, and to develop measures to monitor and address the potential impact on the Qanats of long-term lifestyle changes and development, which could become an important threat to the safeguarding of the property;

4. Also requests the State Party to complete the permanent marking of the boundaries of property components and buffer zones on the ground;
5. Further requests the State Party to provide an indication of the expected timeframe(s) for the completion of the above-mentioned actions and submit the overarching sustainable tourism plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for review by the Advisory Bodies.

## 29. Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu (Japan) (C 972)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

N/A

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 October 2019, a fire occurred at the Shuri-jō site, one of the nine component parts of the property.

The State Party submitted a report on the status of damage to the property in January 2020 and an additional report in May 2020 on progress made with the recovery. The executive summaries of these reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/972/documents/>. These reports provide information on damage to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, emergency measures, basic policies and a work schedule for recovery, as follows:

- The cause of the fire has not been identified yet, although the likeliest cause was the electrical system inside the replica *Seiden* (state hall);
- Most of the archaeological remains (99.9% of the area) were protected by layers of earth and were not directly damaged. Only two parts of the remains of the state hall, that are exposed for



exhibition and research purposes, were damaged when the fire destroyed the above-ground replica structure;

- Nine replica structures, including the state hall, were completely destroyed, and two other replica structures were partially damaged by the fire. All these structures were constructed after 1989;
- Immediately after the fire, the State Party expressed its intention to recover the property and devised basic policies for recovery in December 2019, including establishing an advisory panel and three interdisciplinary working groups. The panel convened three times, and each working group held two meetings to discuss the reconstruction process of the replica of the state hall, measures for fire prevention and material procurement;
- Under the supervision of the Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA), recovery has begun with emergency works, detailed scientific investigation on the extent of the damage to the remains and restoration of the damaged remains, in cooperation with local governments and related research institutes. Sand capping was performed to stabilize the environment of the damaged remains, the surfaces of the remains were reinforced using resin, and a temporary shelter was built to prevent further degradation. A plan for restoration was established including short-, medium- and long-term measures for recovery, monitoring and public access.

In March 2020, a report was issued by the advisory panel including recommendations for recovery, as follows:

- The reconstruction of the state hall will be done on the basis of extensive historical research and documentation of the destroyed structure;
- Measures for fire prevention must be installed, based on the “Fire Prevention Guidelines for National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties (Buildings)” established by ACA;
- The use of domestically sourced lumber for large elements and locally sourced lumber is strongly recommended, if these are available. Similarly, locally sourced materials should be used for the distinctive red roof tiles, relying on local artisans and traditional techniques;
- The protection of the archaeological remains is an essential part of safeguarding the World Heritage property during the recovery works and must be guaranteed.

The State Party established a schedule for reconstruction of the replica of the state hall: construction work would start in 2022 and be completed by 2026. In due course, the advisory panel will continue its discussions on the reconstruction process of other replica structures.

A temporary walkway and observation deck were set up with explanatory boards, enabling visitors and local residents to see the progress of the recovery works. Local communities are invited to join the recovery process, i.e. through volunteer activities. The State Party has planned to develop traditional techniques so that local craftspeople can offer their skills to reconstruct the replica structures.

An on-site UNESCO Advisory mission had been scheduled for March-April 2020 but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, an online meeting with the Japanese authorities, the World Heritage Centre and the international heritage expert took place on 5 June 2020, with a view to continuing discussions on the ongoing and planned restoration works for the property. The Director of the World Heritage Centre also underlined the principles for recovery and reconstruction which were highlighted in the 2018 *Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage*.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

In the immediate aftermath of the fire, the State Party has promptly undertaken the necessary emergency measures to contain the damage and made subsequent commitments to recover the state of conservation of the property based on recovery policies and a long-term plan, including the participation of multiple stakeholders.

The property is composed of nine component parts, but the fire damaged only the Shuri-jō site. As almost all archaeological remains at Shuri-jō site are protected by layers of earth, direct damage from the fire was very limited.

The restoration works of the archaeological remains have progressed, and interventions have been implemented under the technical supervision of ACA and local government experts. The restoration plan for the archaeological remains should continue to be implemented in consultation with experts, according to the national law and regulations.

The replica structures devastated by the fire are significant elements of the property and were reconstructed in the past following the surveyed plans and photographs of the actual architecture as documented before its destruction by fire during wartime, and in strict accordance with the findings of excavations covering a wide area. It is therefore important that the reconstruction of the replicas be done rigorously to restore the authenticity of design, form and artisanship that existed before their destruction in the fire.

Whilst comprehensive fire prevention measures are planned, the recovery should also envisage reducing risks from other hazards to which the site may be exposed, such as earthquakes, typhoons and landslides.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts for the reconstruction of the state hall and to integrate appropriate measures to reduce risks from fire and other hazards in the reconstruction plan for new replica structures, while avoiding any negative influences on the OUV of the property. Risk reduction measures should also be introduced in the immediate surroundings of the property to prevent risks from outside of the property.

The Committee may wish to request the State Party to undertake a comprehensive recovery of the Shuri-jō component site and the surrounding landscape, including all movable and immovable elements, based on the available historical records and the documentation of the site before the fire.

In view of the current situation, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the damage caused by the fire and the proposed restoration works to be undertaken, as well as to examine other aspects of the state of conservation of the property.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee further encourage the State Party to continuously facilitate the involvement of all stakeholders, including local communities, in the recovery process of the property.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.29**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Expresses its solidarity with the State Party for the damage caused to the Shuri-jō site, a component part of the “Gusuku Sites and Related Properties of the Kingdom of Ryukyu” World Heritage property, by a fire on 31 October 2019;*
3. *Takes note of the information provided by the State Party concerning the damage, emergency measures and restoration works already undertaken to recover the property, and commends the State Party for the efforts of the responsible national and local authorities to ensure the safeguarding of the property despite the difficulties encountered;*
4. *Requests the State Party to implement a comprehensive recovery strategy for the property, including a restoration plan for the archaeological remains and the reconstruction of fire-damaged replica structures, in consultation with the relevant experts and in line with the national laws and regulations;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the damage caused by the fire and the proposed restoration works to be undertaken, as well as to examine other aspects of the state of conservation of the property;*
6. *Welcomes the establishment of basic policies and a work schedule for the recovery, including the installation of strengthened fire prevention measures and the reconstruction of replica structures at the state hall, and further requests the State Party to integrate*

*appropriate measures for multi-hazard risk reduction, including fire prevention, into the upcoming reconstruction plan for other replica structures, in line with the “Fire Prevention Guidelines for National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties (Buildings)” established by the Agency for Cultural Affairs and other necessary risk preparedness guidelines, and encourages the State Party to continue facilitating the participation of all stakeholders, including local communities, in the recovery process of the property;*

7. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the Committee at its 46th session in 2023.*

### **30. Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining (Japan) (C 1484)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### **31. Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi (Kazakhstan) (C 1103)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0 (1 withdrawn in 2000)

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 2018: USD 47,111 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the project ‘Technical support to the Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi in Turkestan, Kazakhstan, by introducing Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach in Central Asia’

Previous monitoring missions

December 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory Mission; May 2018: ICOMOS Advisory Mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Systems/Management Plan (Newly developed Master Plan; Conservation and Management Plan)
- Buildings and Development (Urban high rise/changes to skyline; Construction of a new mosque)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Housing

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, of which the summary is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1103/documents/>. In response to the Committee's decision at its 43rd session, the State Party reported the following:

- Structure movement and moisture penetration within the Mausoleum remain active issues and are under continued monitoring and intervention; planning of the comprehensive conservation for historic monuments in buffer zones;
- The number of visitors in 2019 is reported to be 589,960, with March–September being the busiest period. Measures were taken to address the conditions of visit and circulation;
- Progress and some changes for the planning of Eski Turkestan Archaeological Park;
- Update on seven Phase 1 projects for the Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre (Completed: Amphitheatre, Wedding Palace, Eastern Baths, Interpretation Centre of Azret Sultan Reserve-Museum and Fountain; Under Construction: Khoja Ahmed Yasawi Museum, University Library and Uly Dala Eli Centre);
- Details of Phase 2 projects, which consist of Kazakh Drama Theatre (replacing the cancelled Trade Centre), Hampton Hotel and Eastern Market (Caravanserai);
- Details of other projects;
- Post-execution report of a group of national and international experts on the completed Phase 1 projects and on the development of Codes for future development, to ensure the safeguarding of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- The new Master Plan, proposing the development of 22,370 ha in the city of Turkestan for an estimated population growth expected to reach 500,000 inhabitants by 2050 (compared to 85,600 inhabitants in 1999 and 163,000 inhabitants at present), was finalized and is reportedly in the validation process. Several components of the Master Plan are mentioned in the State Party's report, stating that the values of the World Heritage property act as a beacon for urban planning;
- A number of awareness-raising activities were carried out by the Azret Sultan Museum Reserve, the Ministry of Culture and Sports and local organizations in 2019;
- Preparation of a national workshop, as recommended in the Committee's previous decision.

On 17 March 2020, the State Party submitted a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Phase 2 projects of the Kazakh Drama Theatre, Eastern Market (Caravanserai) and Hampton Hotel. An ICOMOS Technical Review on these projects and on the implementation of the Phase 1 projects was transmitted to the State Party on 21 September 2020. The State Party provided their comments on the ICOMOS review on 28 December 2020.

The draft Management Plan of the property was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 31 August 2020. The updated Management Plan was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 3 September 2020 and is under review by the Advisory Bodies.

On 11 April 2021, the international news agency Kazinform (inform.kz) reported that the 20 ha Caravanserai project, described as Central Asia's largest tourism complex, containing a 'flying theatre', an amphitheatre, an Eastern Bazaar, hotels, restaurants and a street of craftspeople, had been officially opened by the President.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party's efforts to integrate the consideration of heritage values in preservation activities and development initiatives are recognized and welcomed, including the virtual workshop organised on 18 June 2020.

The work and research carried out, along with the technical recommendations suggesting the next steps relating to the preservation of the Mausoleum, are noted with satisfaction. Structural movement and humidity control remain central issues and require continuous monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented measures and to address short- and medium-term issues for the preservation of

historical buildings within the property and its buffer zones. Considering the important increase in the number of visitors, the elaboration of a visitor management plan is recommended.

The seven projects of Phase 1 of the Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre development project appear to have been undertaken on the basis of the original HIAs, with no modification in response to the concerns expressed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. The high-rise Amphitheatre building (20.26 m) together with the Khoja Ahmed Yasawi Museum (26.71 m) now dominate the skyline. Meanwhile, the Museum located just in front of the main axis of the World Heritage property competes visually with the Mausoleum, the sacred symbol of Turkestan and of a vast region of the Turkic-speaking world and overall will have an adverse impact on the OUV of the property.

A group of experts who analysed this development, following concerns over constructions in excess of the height restrictions and without all of the necessary permits, are calling for future developments to respect the property's OUV, and an encouraging new approach to wider urban development appears to be emerging.

This new approach includes a special advisory "Scientific-Methodological Council", created in September 2019, and the development of a Master Plan that could signal a change in direction for redevelopment. A new View Axis Protection Area was established, prohibiting any new development that would exceed the 7 m height limit within this area, and the State Party has stated that it is committed to safeguarding these views. However, the framework is not retroactive, and the high-rise amphitheatre is located within this new protection zone. New guidelines have also been drafted, giving preference to more restrained projects that should not compete with the property and should ensure its dominant visual and spatial role in the city. The expert group and the Scientific-Methodological Council have unanimously recommended that new projects must respect both the national legislation and the requirements of the World Heritage Convention, and that no construction should be undertaken without prior consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

The HIA for the three Phase 2 projects was thus undertaken in a more positive context and is characterized by a logical and methodological approach. Nevertheless, the HIA demonstrates that the scale, height and form of the Kazakh Drama Theatre, which will be the second-largest building after the Mausoleum, and the 20 ha Caravanserai will alter the historic setting of the property and add to the impacts of the Phase 1 projects. It has also now become clear that these HIAs were submitted when both projects were far advanced in construction, as the extensive Caravanserai with its large ensemble of hotels, theatre, amphitheatre and craft centre was officially opened in April 2021.

The emerging new approaches and framework outlined above are to be welcomed, and with them the possibility of a more mature vision of development emerging that does not conflict with the spirit and associations of the property, but rather supports its OUV. Nevertheless, it is now clear that details of current projects and HIAs are being submitted after work has been approved and construction has started. This means that any comment that may be offered in technical reviews cannot realistically be addressed. It is suggested that this should be acknowledged as a source of considerable concern, leaving no opportunity to mitigate adverse impacts that are identified, or for the Committee to comment on projects.

The new Master Plan should provide the development framework within which individual projects are taken forward and is thus of fundamental importance. However, it is only being developed after major urban projects are already under construction. Notwithstanding this, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to submit the new Master Plan for review by the Advisory Bodies before its formal approval, rather than after, as suggested by the State Party.

The draft Management Plan focuses mainly on the Mausoleum and contains a summary of work undertaken so far as well as details of on-going conservation projects – including a very welcome project on handmade roof tiles that revives traditional practices last used in the 1970s. What the Plan lacks is a clear articulation of the attributes bearing the OUV, and it does not encompass the management of the buffer zone or the wider setting in the context of urban development. Thus, it does not address the coordination of future initiatives in and around the property by setting out procedures, principles and rules and how these might be applied in relation to assessing potential impacts on the OUV of the property. The State Party should be encouraged to augment the Management Plan by extending its scope to include principles and operationalization measures for future development, along with a strategy to promote these to all stakeholders (citizens, officials, developers, planners). Furthermore, the development of a holistic interpretation strategy for the property and the Archaeological Park should be recommended as part of such an awareness-raising initiative.

In view of the current major development that impacts adversely on the property's OUV and is being undertaken in advance of a new Master Plan being finalised and agreed, without a functioning Management Plan in place that addresses future development and without a structure that allows for comments on emerging projects from the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies or the Committee to be taken into account, it is recommended that the Committee express its serious concern and request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as a matter of urgency to consider how future development might support, rather than endanger, the property and its OUV, as envisaged by the Scientific-Methodological Council, with new construction being subject to prior consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.31**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.67**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Acknowledges the progress accomplished with research and technical work on the Mausoleum, notes that structural movement and humidity levels need to be continuously monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of the implemented measures, and encourages the State Party to continue its work in this regard, to ensure the sound conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), including historic monuments in the buffer zone, and to establish a formal visitor management plan for the property and its surroundings to address the important increase in visitor numbers;
4. Welcomes the creation of a special advisory "Scientific-Methodological Council" in September 2019;
5. Commends the State Party's efforts towards public engagement, and also encourages continued actions in this regard, notably the development of a holistic interpretation strategy for the property and the Archaeological Park;
6. Notes with concern that seven of the Phase 1 Turkestan Spiritual and Cultural Centre projects appear to have been undertaken on the basis of the original Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), with no modification in response to the concerns expressed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and expresses concern that the high-rise Amphitheatre building, together with the Khoja Ahmed Yasawi Museum, compete visually with the Mausoleum, a sacred symbol of Turkestan and of a vast region of the Turkic-speaking world, and have an adverse impact on the OUV of the property;
7. Also notes with concern that details and HIAs for three major projects for the second phase of development (Kazakh Drama Theatre, Eastern Market (Caravanserai) and Hampton Hotel) were submitted in March 2020 after construction had started, which did not allow consideration to be given to the recommendations of an ICOMOS technical review, and that the large Caravanserai tourism centre project was officially opened in March 2021; and further notes that the scale, height and form of the Kazakh Drama Theatre and the 20 ha Caravanserai will conflict with the nature and spirit of the surroundings of the Mausoleum, adding to the existing negative impacts of the Phase 1 projects;
8. Also expresses concern that the current system does not allow any possibility for ICOMOS to consider large-scale development projects, especially in relation to mitigation measures, or for the Committee to express its views on such projects;

9. Further expresses concern that extensive major urban development is underway in advance of the new Master Plan being completed, reviewed or finalized;
10. Urges the State Party to submit relevant sections of this Master Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before its formal approval, rather than after as suggested by the State Party, and to ensure that the Master Plan:
  - a) Recognises the OUV of the property,
  - b) Includes a new draft View Axis Protection Area that prohibits any new development within the area from exceeding the 7m height limit, along with the State Party's commitment to respect these views,
  - c) Sets out guidelines for development, which give preference to more restrained projects that should respect the OUV of the property and should ensure its dominant visual and spatial role in the city;
11. Also welcomes the analysis of development undertaken by a group of national and international experts, following concerns over the height of new constructions and the way permits had been authorised, also acknowledges their call for future developments to respect the OUV of the property, and that the expert group and the Scientific-Methodological Council have unanimously recommended that new projects must respect both national legislation and the requirements of the World Heritage Convention, and that no construction should be undertaken without prior consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and also urges the State Party to address these recommendations;
12. Further welcomes the submission of an updated Management Plan by the State Party and, as the Plan focuses mainly on the Mausoleum and does not address the buffer zone or wider setting, further encourages the State Party to augment the Plan by extending its scope and including principles and operationalization measures for future development, as well as a clear articulation of the attributes of OUV that need to be protected and managed;
13. Considering that current major development impacts adversely on the property's OUV and is taking place before the Master Plan is finalised, in the absence of a Management Plan that addresses future development and without a structure in place that allows the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies or the Committee to comment on emerging projects, requests the State Party to invite, as a matter of urgency, a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to consider how future development might support rather than endanger the property and its OUV, as envisaged by the Scientific-Methodological Council, with new construction being subject to prior consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
14. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022.

### **32. Town of Luang Prabang (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 479bis)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 33. Kathmandu Valley (Nepal) (C 121bis)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 34. Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan) (C 171)

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 2000-2012

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1981 to 2000)

Total amount approved: USD 121,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 975,000, UNESCO/Norway Funds-in-Trust, UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust, Getty Foundation, Embassy of the United States of America in Pakistan

Previous monitoring missions

October 2000: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2001 and June 2003: UNESCO Advisory Missions; November 2005: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: joint UNESCO Tehran Office/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April/May 2012: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing; Land conversion (Encroachments and urban pressure)
- Management systems/management plan (Inadequate management mechanisms; lack of definition of boundaries of the Lahore Fort and Shalamar Gardens)
- Legal framework (Incomplete legislation)
- Financial resources (Lack of sufficient financial resources to implement management mechanisms)
- Underground transport infrastructure
- Ground transport infrastructure (Development of the Orange Line Metro project - aerial portion of the line)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171/>

Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/171/documents/>. The report provides the following information on how the State Party responded to the Committee's previous decisions:

- Selection of a consultant to advise on the implementation of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations;
- Implementation of the decision of the Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan under the supervision of a high-level Special Committee of Experts, and establishment of a regulatory committee by the Directorate-General of Archaeology;
- Conservation work already implemented and basic documentation of planned work;



- Feasibility study for the mitigation options suggested by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission;
- Reduction of the speed of the Orange Line Metro (OLM) around the component site and monitoring of encroachment;
- Plans for a multidisciplinary study to consider revised boundaries for the property, having regard to socio-economic impacts;
- Comprehensive study of the Fort's hydrology and drainage;
- Proposals to optimize water drainage in order to preserve historical structures, with a particular focus on the Picture Wall;
- Emergency stabilization of dilapidated Fort roofing;
- Following the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, completion of the restoration/conservation for the Aiwan/summer pavilion, historical gateway, wooden ceiling, and restoration of external waterways on the eastern side of the perimeter wall;
- Planting of trees, which are expected to form a natural "mask" for the newly-constructed OLM.

The State Party has taken (or will take) the following actions to conserve the property:

- Completion of the conservation of the western part of the Picture Wall;
- Implementation of an improved drainage system for the entire Fort by 2021, with a temporary drainage system in place during the intervening monsoon season(s);
- Conservation of the deteriorated Royal Kitchen, to be re-used as a night-time restaurant;
- Restoration of monuments, such as Barood Khana, Musamman Gate, Western Suit (old resthouse) and a wooden bridge over the road from postern gate to Maidane-Dewan-e-Aam;
- Initiation of a project to improve public facilities, including horticultural works at the Shalamar gardens;
- Proposals to restore or conserve a number of monuments in 2020.

Through its report, the State Party also shared various technical studies.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party has made some progress in addressing the Committee's previous decisions and some recommendations made by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, but regrettably has not actively engaged with the World Heritage Centre or ICOMOS, nor provided sufficient information about projects at the property, despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. In the absence of adequate prior consultation and engagement, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger may become necessary to provide a framework and process by which further threats and damage to the authenticity and integrity of the property may be prevented.

The progress achieved includes the establishment of a regulating committee to reinforce governance mechanisms through monitoring and inform decision-making processes. Technical studies on the possible impacts of the OLM project on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) were submitted, but without the benefit of vibrational analysis following the completion of the OLM project. It is recommended that the Committee acknowledge the State Party's efforts to implement some mitigation measures following the construction of the OLM and to commission a comprehensive feasibility study for the other mitigation measures suggested by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, but regret that neither the World Heritage Centre nor ICOMOS have been consulted. The Committee may also urge the State Party to implement all of the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission and reiterate its request that detailed designs for the implementation of mitigation measures be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operation Guidelines*, and that projects only proceed once positive feedback has been received.

Concerning the preservation of the Fort of Lahore, the efforts deployed for the prototype conservation project of the Picture Wall are noted, and the rest of the Fort should be conserved to an equally high technical standard. The comprehensive study on drainage and emergency roof waterproofing measures are welcomed, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of its progress and monitoring efforts. All current and future technical restoration and

documentation work should involve national staff, so that capacities for heritage conservation can be built and benefit the property and its conservation in the long term.

A number of proposed restoration projects may contribute to improving the general condition of historical monuments within the property, notably restoration work to Dewan-E-Khas, Shahjahani Khawabgah, Kala Burj, Lal Burj, Moti Masjid and Makatib Khana, Arzghah (Tile Mosaic Laboratory), Akbari Hammam, and inside Alamgiri Gate and Loh Mandar. However, the outline information provided about these projects does not allow to assess their potential impact on the property's OUV, and more detailed information should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The proposed re-use of the Royal Kitchen as a night-time restaurant raises concerns, as this use of the Fort complex would involve changes that may affect the property's integrity and authenticity. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request a detailed technical proposal, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and that no decision be made that may impact the OUV of the property and would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before the Advisory Bodies have positively reviewed the proposal.

Concerning the overall management of the property, the recent Master Plan and the interdisciplinary study for a proposed boundary modification and buffer zone should be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.34**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.14** and 43 COM 7B.72 adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party to address the Committee's previous requests and the recommendations formulated by the April 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission with regard to the protection and management of the property and the mitigation measures following the construction of the Orange Line Metro (OLM), and requests that the feasibility study for the remaining recommendations be conducted in close consultation with ICOMOS, and that its outcomes be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Notes the creation by the Directorate-General for Archaeology of a Regulatory Committee for OLM-related operations and future projects, in an effort to enable informed decision-making processes, in compliance with the provisions of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Regrets however that the State Party did not inform the Committee or consult with the World Heritage Centre or the Advisory Bodies at any step of these processes, and also requests that the State Party work in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to assess all OLM-related operations and future projects, in order to prevent further damage to the property's OUV;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the outcomes of monitoring activities to assess the impacts of the OLM, notably concerning the mitigation of the OLM's impacts on the OUV of the property, and urges the State Party to implement all of the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, and especially to report on its efforts to:*
  - a) *Divert vehicular traffic away from the Shalamar Gardens by redirecting traffic in one direction, away from the component site, making the GT Road pass behind*

- the newly constructed OLM viaduct, and by constructing an additional motorway further to the south of the property for traffic in the opposite direction,*
- b) Divert vehicular traffic on all other sides of the Shalamar Gardens to the surrounding streets and introduce a Noise-Sensitive Zone around the component site,*
  - c) Construct a tube of soundproofing triplex transparent glass along the tracks between the Shalamar Garden and the Pakistan Mint stations, which could also help mitigate the visual impact on the component site, and affix glass curtains on the roadside and on the piers along the viaduct bridge to combat noise and air pollution,*
  - d) Address the impacts of vibrations on structures within the property, based on tests conducted after the completion of the OLM and while it is in daily operation;*
- 7. Also notes that a number of restoration and/or conservation projects have been undertaken at both component sites of the property, following the recommendations of the 2018 mission, including the preservation of the property's perimeter wall at the Lahore Fort, a prototype project for the west segment of the Picture Wall, and the restoration of the Royal Kitchen;*
  - 8. Further requests that full details of any ongoing or future projects be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, including preservation and restoration works for Dewan-E-Khas, Shahjahani Khawabgah, Kala Burj, Lal Burj, Moti Masjid and Makatib Khana, Arzghah (Tile Mosaic Laboratory), Akbari Hammam, and inside Alamgiri Gate and Loh Mandar, as well as a details on the proposed re-use of the Royal Kitchen of Lahore Fort as a night-time restaurant, and that no irreversible decision be made before positive feedback has been received from the Advisory Bodies, and also urges the State Party to prioritise the safeguarding of the attributes of the property's OUV, including the integrity and authenticity of Lahore Fort;*
  - 9. Requests furthermore the State Party to officially submit the revised Master Plan of the property to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, and also reiterates its request that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal for a minor boundary modification, prepared in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines and including the revision of the buffer zones, after having considered all appropriate social measures, especially if any of action involves the displacement of people residing in the neighbouring areas of the property, for review by the Committee at a subsequent session;*
  - 10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022, **with a view to considering, in the absence of significant progress with the implementation of the mitigation measures recommended by the Committee and the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission in order to address the ascertained threats to the OUV, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

### 35. Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (Pakistan) (C 143)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 30,000 from the UNESCO Regular Programme Funds for condition survey of Jam Nizzamuddin tomb (2011); USD 33,000 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the Emergency assessment and immediate response to damages caused by the floods (2012); UNESCO Emergency assistance and immediate response to damages caused by the floods (2012); two phases of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project 'World Heritage, Sustainable Development and Community Involvement' for World Heritage properties in Bangladesh and Pakistan also concern this property (Phase I: 2015-2017 – USD 600,065; Phase II: 2019-2022 – USD 769,741).

Previous monitoring missions

November-December 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2010: World Heritage Centre fact-finding mission to the property following major floods that devastated the area in August 2010; May 2012: joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Earthquake
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Housing
- Illegal activities
- Land conversion
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Other climate change impacts
- Solid waste
- Other Threats: Stability of the foundations (earth mechanics) of the Jam Nizzamuddin II tomb

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/>

Current conservation issues

On 27 January 2020, and 1 February 2021, the State Party submitted reports on the state of conservation of the property, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/143/documents>. These reports provide information on the implementation of particular elements of Committee's previous decisions, as follows:

- The State Party has further elaborated the draft Management Plan for the property by engaging stakeholders in the process, and a final draft was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in February 2021;
- The Master Plan for the property is progressively being implemented;
- The management authority has reinforced the technical capacity of its staff by involving them in aerial photography, 3-D scanning and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) studies on site. The Site

Manager also participated in two sessions of the Site Managers Forum, organized in conjunction with World Heritage Committee sessions;

- Stone conservation and site management are priority areas, and the International Assistance request submitted by the authorities for capability building under the World Heritage Fund for the 2019-2020-2021 cycle is under approval process;
- Prioritized actions were conducted to prevent further damage to important monuments in 2019, in particular in response to heavy rainfall. Eight monuments were investigated for priority stabilization; During the reporting period, a total of 12 monuments were investigated with GPR, and 9 monuments were subject to intervention in 2020;
- The “Study the effects of wind-borne salinity on the monuments and development of feasible mitigation measures to reduce this impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)” was prepared and submitted with the 2021 update report. Some 250 trees were planted to protect monuments from wind-borne particles in 2020, and an additional 200 are scheduled to be planted in 2021;
- Processes are in place to formalise protocols for stakeholder engagement and community education programmes;
- The Action Plan for the mausoleum of Jam Nizzamuddin is being elaborated, additional crack monitoring and a 3D photogrammetric study were undertaken, the required budget was allocated, and a GPR study completed to detect possible buried masses and identify non-intrusive points within and outside the structure for future conservation interventions;
- The documentation system for detached architectural elements is ongoing, using a simple format, and suitable storage space has been identified;
- A monitoring system is being used to record data from monument monitoring devices;
- The boundary wall was completed in 2020 and has permanently prevented vehicular and animal access at the western and northern boundary, rendering encroachment on the site very difficult. Buffer zone regulations are still under elaboration;
- The visitor management framework remains in preparation, while new information boards and additional sanitary facilities have been installed;
- An emergency preparedness strategy is underway.

The World Heritage Centre and the State Party also exchanged letters relating to the reported non-professional restoration of the Tomb of Isa Khan Tarkhan-II in February 2021.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party has responded to previous decisions of the Committee and to the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission. A final draft of the Management Plan was submitted and technical interventions and preventive measures on several important monuments within the property have been implemented and visitor facilities added. However, the Action Plan for the mausoleum of Jam Nizzamuddin has been not yet submitted for review. Reported investigations into the impacts of wind-borne salinity, the coordination of conservation activities according to clear standards, and efforts to involve staff in technical interventions are welcome. A request for International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund for the 2019-2020-2021 cycles is under approval process.

The State Party has addressed the need for stronger governance, previously raised by the Committee and the 2019 mission, and proposes to implement the relevant recommendations at the level of policy tools. These include the creation and running of a Steering Committee with the necessary decision-making power and jurisdiction, a clear risk preparedness strategy and an overall visitor management framework. A request for a minor boundary modification, which should reflect the boundaries identified in 2013 and be in line with the regulatory plan for the proposed buffer zone and Paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*, is yet to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

The efforts and concerns of the State Party regarding the effectiveness of monitoring for such a large number of monuments, some of which are in a precarious state of conservation, are noted, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to pursue its efforts towards systematic monitoring and the implementation of a protocol for strategic prioritization. The effectiveness of the coordination mechanism for external cooperation should be demonstrated.

Concerning the reports from civil society expressing concern about flooring and waterproofing works undertaken at the Tomb of Isa Khan Tarkhan-II, photographic evidence provided by the State Party indicates that some large areas of new paving have been installed, but the basis for the extent of new fabric, the reason for using different sized pavers and the functionality of the new works are not clear.

The management of architectural elements detached from the original structures has been addressed by improving the inventory format and establishing storage areas for displaced elements and the remaining architectural surface decoration. The inventory format included in the report could be further refined to include additional information. Continued efforts could be engaged to ensure *in situ* conservation of large objects or their return to their original locations, following the comprehensive studies to which the State Party has committed.

The State Party's efforts towards the development of a Management Plan, requested by the Committee since 2009, are acknowledged, although it is recognised that the current draft has incomplete sections and appears to be particularly focused on work completed to date, rather than setting out a viable future pathway supported by effective funding and resources. It is not clear whether there has been meaningful input from local personnel and close consultation with the large community of stakeholders so as to create joint commitment towards its implementation. While a thorough evaluation of the draft will be provided following a technical review by ICOMOS, the final Management Plan should include high-level principles and guidelines, action plans for individual monuments and projects, address the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, and incorporate other management documents currently under preparation, including the visitor management framework, a risk preparedness strategy and emergency response plan, policies and systems for monitoring and conservation, and the identification and appropriate conservation of detached elements. The Management Plan should also clearly articulate the operational relationship with the Master Plan and integration of all staff in the management process.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.35**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.97** and **43 COM 7B.73** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Takes note of the State Party's efforts towards improving the overall management of the property, notably by completing the boundary wall, establishing a storage facility for important displaced architectural elements and a documentation protocol, intervening on some of the property's monuments and working towards the finalization of the Management Plan, and welcomes the State Party's investigations into the impacts of wind-borne salinity, its efforts to coordinate conservation activities, and the involvement of staff in technical interventions as part of capacity-building activities;*
4. *Notes that its previous decisions and the recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission are yet to be fully addressed, and reiterates its request to the State Party to implement all previous decisions and report on both actions and results, including:*
  - a) *The completion of the Management Plan, which should include high-level principles, action plans for individual monuments and projects with clear timeframes, taking into account Decision 43 COM 7B.73, the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission and the advice of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS following a technical review of the submitted draft,*
  - b) *The definition of an official mission statement for the overall management of the property, along with terms of reference for the Steering Committee,*

- c) *The completion of the visitor management framework,*
  - d) *The preparation of a risk preparedness strategy and emergency response plan,*
  - e) *Protocols for stakeholder engagement and community education programmes,*
  - f) *The submission of the action plan for the stabilization and conservation of the mausoleum of Jam Nizzamuddin II, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to its implementation,*
  - g) *The submission to the World Heritage Centre of a request for a minor boundary modification, prepared in line with Paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines and reflecting the boundaries identified in 2013, along with a regulatory plan for the proposed buffer zone, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. Requests the State Party to submit further information about the works carried out to provide waterproofing of the Tomb of Isa Khan Tarkhan-II, including reasons for the apparent installation of such extensive areas of new paving, the use of different size pavers and the functionality of the new system, and reminds the State Party of the Committee's previous request to transmit detailed information on proposed projects to the World Heritage Centre before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Also requests the State Party to continue identifying and making use of opportunities for staff to benefit from national and international capacity-building programmes, in particular for management, stone conservation, and the management and conservation of moveable heritage and detached architectural elements, including their documentation;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

### **36. 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 2001-2012

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1994 to 2001)

Total amount approved: USD 153,200

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 20,000 under the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust for study tour; USD 47,000 under the UNESCO Participation Programme for emergency assistance following typhoon Emong in May 2009; USD 40,600 under the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the emergency stabilization and restoration of the Rice Terraces after typhoon Juaning in July 2011

### Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: joint ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; June 2005: UNESCO expert mission; April 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Storms; Other climate change impacts (Vulnerability to natural disasters)
- Financial resources (Lack of sustainable funding for the functioning management agencies)
- Management activities (Implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan through operational arrangements)
- Management systems/ management plan (Need for an integrated tourism Management Plan and mechanisms to control tourism related infrastructure developments)
- Society's valuing of heritage; Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system (Implementation of Community-Based Land Use and Zoning Plan)
- Human resources
- Illegal activities
- Legal framework

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/>

### Current conservation issues

On 19 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/722/documents/> and presents the progress in addressing the conservation issues highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The State Party has carried out a number of initiatives in line with the Rice Terraces Master Plan 2015-2024, effectively utilizing a wide range of national and international resources and addressing four specific aspects: biophysical, socio-cultural, economical development, and support system. These are focused primarily on community-based initiatives and include protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- A number of conservation and management activities were undertaken, including the rehabilitation of deteriorated irrigation systems, repair of damaged stone walls, construction of reinforcement walls, and reforestation with the purpose of watershed rehabilitation. The transmission of indigenous knowledge, systems and practices (IKSP) is notably ensured through implementation of an Indigenous Peoples Education Program that supports the integration of traditional knowledge systems in formal, non-formal and informal education to improve the state of conservation of the property. The Ifugao Archaeological Research Project has contributed to establishing the origins of the rice terraces. Amongst other projects, the Ifugao Indigenous Knowledge Workbook, Provincial Government initiatives such as the Schools of Living Traditions (SLT) and an inventory of Ifugao traditional houses have promoted the strengthening of Ifugao cultural identity and heritage;
- Different public and private bodies have actively participated in the preservation of the rice terraces and local development in the region, including NGOs, research institutes and private companies. Ifugao Rice Terraces are among the FAO's Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). In order to coordinate various conservation activities and ensure proper support for decision making, inter-agency mechanisms have been established between the Ifugao Rice Terraces Rehabilitation and Development Council and the GIAHS Sustainable Development Committee, both of which are responsible for monitoring and implementing relevant projects and research towards the appropriate preservation of the rice terraces;
- The State Party has also focused on sustainable, community-level capacity building to help ensure that business opportunities develop into adequate forms of tourism and community-based, traditional agro-industries. Through the continuous maintenance of the rice terraces, local residents will be able to earn their livelihoods from the protection of the World Heritage property;
- Two energy plant projects have been identified outside the buffer zone of the property, but in its periphery: (a) the Alimit Hydro Complex project, which includes the construction of power plants producing more than 100 MW along with a pumped storage facility, was granted approval by local government and comprises a project area (Mayoyao); and (b) the Kiangan Mini Hydro Corporation Project, a run-off river type hydropower plant project;



- According to the FAO in December 2019, the continued survival of the Terraces is threatened by various factors such as environmental degradation, unregulated development, and neglect brought by urbanization and changing values.

The State Party's 2016 report mentioned climatic vulnerabilities including regular storms and floods, annual typhoons and strong earthquakes that greatly affect the property and its inhabitants. Climate change hazards in the region with major impacts have recently increased, potentially endangering peoples' lives and the property. The Master Plan addresses the importance of the Disaster Risk Preparedness Plan, but its implementation is not indicated in the State Party's 2019 report.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

It should be acknowledged that the State Party has sustained its efforts to implement the multiple action points of the Rice Terraces Master Plan. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continuously implement the Master Plan and maintain the long-term perspective on sustainability, ensuring the conservation of the OUV of the property and the viability of community livelihoods. Additionally, considering that the midterm review of the Master Plan is scheduled for the first semester of 2020, it is expected that the outcomes of the review should be integrated into future conservation activities.

It should also be noted that the State Party has deployed consistent efforts to address the current conservation issues of the property, notably through the mobilization of financial resources and by ensuring the involvement of the local community. These efforts have resulted in a number of initiatives aimed at sustainably improving of the property's state of conservation and management through education, integration of traditional knowledge, research and sustainable community development.

In particular, the establishment of inter-agency mechanisms between the Ifugao Rice Terraces Rehabilitation and Development Council and the GIAHS Sustainable Development Committee should be highlighted, as it provides an overarching mechanism to oversee the implementation of various projects and research on the property. It is recommended that the Committee also note with satisfaction the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Education Program, the documentation of indigenous knowledge and the support for indigenous living traditions.

However, it is noted that conservation issues might continue to affect the property, especially in view of the moderate implementation rate of projects due to the discrepancy between the available human resources and the management workload for the property. In addition, the outmigration and economic development issues resulted in an apparent lack of interest in maintaining the rice terraces, while a shift from rice growing to more profitable agricultural items would result in a loss of traditional knowledge and practices. These challenges are being addressed in line with the Master Plan, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue addressing these conservation issues accordingly.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee also encourage the State Party to continue monitoring the implementation of regulations, to control infrastructure and physical developments within the property, and to address factors (including earthquakes and increasing storms and typhoons) that can become threats and result in major hazards. The Disaster Risk Preparedness Plan and climate change adaptation strategies to address increasing climate vulnerability should be implemented as soon as possible. In light of construction projects, including the energy plant projects that are planned in areas surrounding the property, it is also recommended that Heritage Impact Assessments be carried out for each project, in accordance with the relevant ICOMOS and IUCN guidelines.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.36**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 42 COM 7B.15 adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),

3. *Welcomes the substantial efforts and progress made by the State Party to implement the Rice Terraces Master Plan 2015-2024 and improve the overall state of conservation and management of the property;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to continuously implement the Rice Terraces Master Plan 2015-2024 and take into account the outcomes of the 2020 midterm review;*
5. *Notes with satisfaction the establishment of inter-agency mechanisms between the Ifugao Rice Terraces Rehabilitation and Development Council and the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Sustainable Development Committee of FAO, along with the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Education Program to support the integration of traditional knowledge systems in formal and informal education, and also encourages the State Party to enhance synergies with GIAHS programme and use these mechanisms to address emerging conservation issues, with consideration for the full participation of local communities and other stakeholders;*
6. *Further encourages the State Party to implement the Disaster Risk Preparedness Plan and climate change adaptation strategies as soon as possible, due to the possibility of major earthquakes and the increasing climate vulnerability of the region in the face of regular typhoons and floods;*
7. *Encourages furthermore the State Party to continue monitoring the implementation of regulations to control infrastructure and physical developments within the property, and strongly encourages the State Party to prepare Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the upcoming energy plant projects in the vicinity of the property, including a specific section on their potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and to submit these HIAs to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above for review by the Advisory Bodies.*

### **37. Old town of Galle and its Fortifications (Sri Lanka) (C 451)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1988

Criteria

(iv)

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

N/A

Previous Committee Decisions

See page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1997)

Total amount granted: USD 3,334

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

May 2002: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; November 2007: Advisory Mission by a UNESCO Expert; April/May 2008: Advisory mission by the UNESCO Office in New Delhi; February 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development
- Illegal activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Marine transport infrastructure

### Illustrative material

See page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/>

### Current conservation issues

On 12 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/451/documents/> and presents progress in a number of areas addressed by the Committee as follows:

- The proposed development of Galle Port has been postponed. The State Party is aware that, when the project is resumed, it will need to send detailed information regarding the revised development plans to the World Heritage Centre before implementing them;
- The State Party's financial support to the Galle Heritage Foundation (GHF) has increased by 17% since 2015; in addition, new income-generating strategies are being identified;
- Conservation of the rampart wall is underway, thanks to funding from the World Bank;
- Regarding the staff needed to implement the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan (STMP):
  - A new organizational structure is proposed, with the creation of additional specialist positions – this is undergoing a Ministry approval process,
  - The information centre currently has three staff, and there are plans to recruit a tourism specialist to lead activities,
  - It is recognized that existing staff would benefit from capacity building;
- The STMP is being implemented by the GHF and the Ruhunu Tourist Bureau and work includes the following:
  - Within Galle Fort, the information centre at the entrance has been upgraded and new visitor facilities are being provided,
  - Plans are being prepared to use military remains along the rampart wall to house heritage interpretation,
  - The GHF website was relaunched (see <http://www.galleheritage.gov.lk/en/>) and two apps were created for visitors to Galle Fort.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The major project to develop Galle Port has been postponed, and the State Party remains fully aware of its obligations to report to the World Heritage Centre when revised plans are drawn up.

It is noted that the State Party continues to reinforce the property's management, that funding for the GHF has increased over time, and that plans are proposed to improve the organizational structure and increase intellectual resources. However, few details have been provided.

Although the IMP is in operation and several steps of the plan have been implemented, it remains unclear how much of the 2016-18 Action Plan has actually been implemented. According to the indicated timetable, the IMP should now be fully functional, but confirmation of progress with its implementation and information on the steps taken towards a new planning cycle are needed.

Furthermore, no information has been provided on the implementation of 2010 Reactive Monitoring mission's recommendation to strengthen coordination between the GHF and other conservation and

development authorities. Nor is it clear how the reinforced management is dealing with challenges facing the property such as, for instance, enforcement action over building work and other planning issues. Information must be provided on progress with the establishment of a consultative council, any sessions held in the last 12 months, and the significant issues it considered.

An important responsibility is placed on the GHF for implementing the IMP and the STMP. It would be helpful to have confirmation of GHF's staffing structure and annual budget: although funding has reportedly increased by 17% since 2015, this figure is not related to a baseline or inflation, and more information is needed on available financial resources. It appears that a long-term funding strategy is yet to be developed, despite earlier requests. It is advised that GHF's annual report be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

Concerning capacity-building initiatives for existing staff, ICCROM could be invited to support the GHF. In addition, a retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), which is a fundamental tool for the management of a World Heritage property, is yet to be adopted and should be finalized as soon as possible.

In terms of the wider situation at the property, which the management structure is addressing, it would be helpful to understand the number of applications for permission to develop buildings and sites within the property over the last two years, especially how many were submitted, approved/refused, and the criteria used to reach this decision. In particular, details are needed on the cricket club and the plans for a new stand, as proposals need to be submitted for review before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse.

Although it is noted that conservation work on the rampart wall is underway, no details have been provided on other conservation work or on the development of a Conservation Plan.

Progress with the STMP and the implementation of various visitor-related activities is welcomed. However, many of its recommendations require additional reports, notably on traffic management, visitor capacity, and the preparation of a visionary masterplan. It is not clear whether these have been undertaken or commissioned, or whether the recommendations of the STMP have been modified. Meanwhile, no information was provided on the improvement of the traffic situation in the Old Town, as previously recommended. There still remains a **need to appoint a Tourism Officer in the GHF structure**. It should be noted that details on tourism development projects should be communicated to the World Heritage Centre in advance of their enactment, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.37**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.17**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Notes that the major project for developing Galle Port is currently postponed, and requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre immediately in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, should the project be reactivated, and to provide all the necessary documents requested by the previous decisions of the Committee, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Welcomes the State Party's ongoing commitment to the management of the property, and also notes the ongoing implementation of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and the Sustainable Tourism Management Plan (STMP), an increase in funding for the Galle Heritage Foundation (GHF), and plans to improve its organizational structure and resources;*

5. Also requests the State Party, in the light of the importance of the IMP to deal with planning and development controls, and conservation in the property, to provide the following details:
  - a) Confirmation of progress with the implementation of the 2016-18 IMP Action Plan,
  - b) Confirmation that coordination between GHF and other conservation and development authorities has been strengthened, as recommended by the 2010 Reactive Monitoring mission,
  - c) Confirmation of the number and type of applications for developments within the property that were submitted, approved and denied over the last two years, along with the criteria used for these assessments,
  - d) Conservation work that undertaken or ongoing,
  - e) Progress with the drafting of a Conservation Plan,
  - f) Progress with the development of a retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (rSOUV);
6. Further requests the State Party to clarify how the GHF's resources allow it to implement the IMP and the STMP, and notably to provide details on:
  - a) The GHF's organizational structure and how many posts remain unfilled,
  - b) The GHF's annual budget and how this has increased since 2015 in relation to baselines and taking inflation into account,
  - c) The development of a long-term funding strategy, as previously requested;
7. Invites the State Party to consider the development and implementation of capacity-building activities for staff working at the property;
8. Further notes that many of the recommendations of the STMP require additional reports, notably on traffic management, visitor capacity, and the preparation of a masterplan, and requests furthermore the State Party to provide details on:
  - a) How much of the STMP has been implemented,
  - b) What financial resources are available for its completion,
  - c) The appointment of a Tourism Officer at the GHF,
  - d) Progress with additional reports (e.g. traffic management, visitor capacity) and the draft master plan, and/or how and when the State Party intends to undertake or commission these tasks, and/or how the State Party intends to take into account the recommendations of the STMP,
  - e) Any interim arrangements made to improve the traffic situation in the old town;
9. Requests moreover the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, of any project that might negatively impact on the property's OUV before any decision is made than would be difficult to reverse, notably regarding proposals for a new stand at the Cricket Club;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

### 38. Historic Centre of Bukhara (Uzbekistan) (C 602bis)

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 N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1995 to 2016)

Total amount approved: USD 100,960

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: 2016: USD 30,670 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for the Application of the UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban landscape (HUL, 2011) at the World Heritage properties 'Historic Centre of Bukhara' and 'Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures'; 2019: USD 43,115 UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project "Building capacity in managing World Heritage properties, interconnection of development and heritage preservation in Uzbekistan and Central Asia"

#### Previous monitoring missions

1998: ICOMOS Reactive Assessment mission; October 2010: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2016: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: ICOMOS Advisory Mission; January 2020: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground Transport Infrastructure (Roads)
- High impact research / monitoring activities
- Housing, Development (Use of new building material and methods, inappropriate restoration and reconstruction methods; utilities or service infrastructure)
- Management deficiency (Lack of coordination with regard to the conservation and restoration activities carried out as part of the State Programme; Lack of on-going routine maintenance and varying state of conservation of monuments)
- Managements systems/Management Plan (Lack of a proper conservation and management plan; Lack of guidelines for rehabilitation of housing and lack of integration of Management Plan with City Master Plan and HUL Recommendation)
- Archaeological excavation and rebuilding on the Shakhristan Market site
- Implications of the Project of Detailed Planning of Historical Centre of Bukhara Development (PDP)
- Recent hotel constructions which would negatively affect the integrity of the property (issue resolved)
- Heavy traffic, pollution and poor sewerage system (issue resolved)
- Others: Degradation of traditional houses

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/>

#### Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in January 2020; the mission report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/documents/> and was translated into Russian and shared with local stakeholders. Subsequently, on 27 January 2020 and 9 January 2021, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/602/documents/> which provide the following information:

- The city of Bukhara is undergoing rapid urban transformation, and urban heritage is an important asset for the development of the city through sustainable tourism. Important legal and institutional measures have been adopted to protect cultural heritage and control development. There is

moratorium on construction and development within the property and its buffer zone until the Master Plan and the Management Plan have been reviewed by the Advisory Bodies and adequate management systems, conservation, Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes and development policies and protocols are in place;

- The Cabinet of Ministers has approved a Roadmap for implementation of Committee Decision **43 COM 7B.78**. The Interagency Task Force responsible for the implementation of the Roadmap has been expanded to include national and international experts and will become an International Advisory Committee (IAC) for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan (see below). In addition, at the local level, a Public Advisory Council has been created to control conservation and construction activities. A Steering Committee comprising specialists in the field of cultural heritage has also been appointed by the Hokim of the City of Bukhara to monitor the implementation of requirements for the preservation of cultural heritage, implementation of the Management Plan;
- Planning tools are being revised and updated and new tools prepared for the effective protection of the property. A new city Master Plan has been developed, and the Project of Detailed Planning (PDP) of 2017 has been suspended and is being revised. Elements of cultural heritage damaged through the initial implementation of the PDP have been stabilized and protective measures have been taken. A Management Plan has been prepared through an inclusive process and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The Management Plan will be integrated to the Master Plan according to the *2011 UNESCO Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape (HUL)* and having regard to the recommendations of the 2018 Advisory mission and the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission. Draft guidelines for restoration methods and materials have been developed and sent to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
- Major restoration projects and new constructions are planned in the property, including works to Kalon Mosque, Abdulaziz Khan Madrassah, Amir Alimkhan Madrassah, Mir Arab Madrassah and various elements within Ark Citadel, and the construction of a new Shakhristan Market. Documentation for these and other projects has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. Works are proceeding for those projects that have received positive technical reviews and other projects have been revised with updated documents to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- The State Party is establishing an International Advisory Committee (IAC) for cultural World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan. Progress has been made, including liaison with the World Heritage Centre, identification of potential members and budget allocation, with a first meeting expected in 2021 to ensure follow-up of the Committee decisions and Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations;
- The UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project “Building capacity in managing World Heritage properties, interconnection of development and heritage preservation in Uzbekistan and Central Asia” has been progressing and an online training workshop took place in May 2021.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party has made progress in addressing the Committee's decisions and threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. However, the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission concluded that the property remains threatened by the poor physical condition of some major monuments and vernacular buildings, by inappropriate conservation approaches and by tourism development pressures, which may result in inappropriate structures. Improved communication among the authorities at the national, regional, and municipal levels as well as public awareness and sensitisation are crucial in the implementation of policies for the preservation of the property.

There have been significant regulatory and institutional changes and improved management planning. The current moratorium on construction and development, pending the finalization of key management documents and other conservation/design guidelines is welcome. There has been progress with preparing an Integrated Management Plan and Master Plan for the City. However, additional work is required to integrate the approach of the *2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL)* and to ensure the adequate recognition of the property's World Heritage status within the Master Plan and a better process for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA), in accordance with Decision **42 COM 7A.4**. The moratorium should remain in place until the Master Plan for the City and the integrated Management Plan for the property have been finalised, following submission to the World Heritage Centre and positive review by ICOMOS. Additional guidelines are required for development,

new infrastructure and alterations to existing dwellings. A programme should be instigated at the earliest opportunity for further training and capacity building about the HUL approach.

ICOMOS has provided technical reviews of conservation projects proposed at Shakhristan Bazaar, Kalon Mosque, Abdulazzizkhan Madrassah, Amir Alimkhan Madrassah, Mir Arab Madrassah, within the Ark Citadel and for Khoja Kalon Hauz, all of which identify the need for changes to achieve good conservation outcomes. All major conservation projects at the property should be based on thorough research and evaluation and guided by comprehensive site-specific conservation plans and adequate documentation. It is recommended that the Committee support this more sensitive approach to conservation, based on a detailed analysis of structural stability, and traditional materials and techniques. The immediate stabilisation of the Abdulazzizkhan Madrassah is an urgent priority, to be followed by its long-term conservation. For major projects, HIAs should be prepared in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS *Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment for Cultural World Heritage Properties*, and detailed project documentation should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. In response to third-party information, the State Party has provided assurances that the developer of a proposed hotel on Gavkushon Street will prepare detailed documentation, including an HIA, which will be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review.

Vernacular buildings are highly important yet largely unprotected elements of the property and remain subject to threats ranging from demolition to inappropriate alteration. The 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission already noted that there was insufficient control over development in *mahallas*, especially concerning individual traditional houses not listed under national protection, and emphasized that adequate legal protection should be granted to all attributes of the property, including the traditional houses. There is a continuing need for stronger legal protection and planning codes for cultural heritage and appropriate incentives for building owners.

The 2020 mission suggested that the existing Interagency Task Force for the Historic Centre of Bukhara could become the basis for a National Interagency Task Force, comprising representatives of regulatory authorities and appropriately skilled and experienced experts, with access to relevant international expertise. This approach is being expanded through the establishment of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, which should oversee the conservation of the property, the protection of its OUV and the implementation of Committee decisions and mission recommendations.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.38**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.99** and **43 COM 7B.78**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the recent decisions by the State Party to address some significant threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including the Roadmap for the implementation of the Committee's decisions, regulatory changes and continued improvements to management planning and guidance documents, the establishment of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan and of the Steering Committee, the suspension and revision of the Project of Detailed Planning (PDP) of 2017, and the current moratorium on demolition and development within the property and buffer zone;*
4. *Also welcomes in particular the creation of the Public Advisory Council to reinforce dialogue with local communities and increase the understanding of all stakeholders when it comes to rules and regulations concerning physical intervention within the property;*
5. *Takes note of the ongoing preparation of the Master Plan for the City and the integrated Management Plan for the property, noting that additional work is still needed to integrate*



*the approach of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), to coordinate with the Project for Detailed Planning of the Historical Centre of Bukhara, and to recognise adequately the World Heritage status of the property within the Master Plan, and requests that the moratorium on demolition and new development should remain in place until the Master Plan for the City and the integrated Management Plan for the property are finalised, following submission to the World Heritage Centre and positive review by the Advisory Bodies;*

6. *Further welcomes the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and urges the State Party to implement its recommendations in full, having particular regard to:*
  - a) *Improved communication concerning World Heritage requirements, processes and procedures, between the national, regional and municipal authorities of the State Party,*
  - b) *Capacity building and training regarding requirements of the Convention, the Operational Guidelines and the HUL Recommendation,*
  - c) *Priority for urgent structural stabilisation works to the Abdulazzizkhan Madrassah and further long-term conservation based on thorough investigations,*
  - d) *Protection of the mahalla residential areas and vernacular architecture, and preparation of guidelines covering conservation requirements and renovation approaches, infrastructure installation, and the location, scale and form of new developments, alterations and additions,*
  - e) *Improved public consultation and communication of World Heritage values to the local population;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies:*
  - a) *Revised project documentation for the proposed Shakhristan Bazaar development, taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of the ICOMOS technical review,*
  - b) *Revised project documentation for proposed conservation projects at Kalon Mosque, Ark Citadel, Abdulazzizkhan Madrassah, Mir Arab Madrassah, Amir Alimkhan Madrassah and Khoja Kalon Hauz, taking into consideration the findings and recommendations of ICOMOS Technical Reviews,*
  - c) *Project documentation and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, for the projects proposed at Ulughbek Madrassah, Rashid Madrassah and the private hotel on Gavkushon Street,*
  - d) *Urban Design Guidelines with both principles and examples for urban works such as alterations to housing, infrastructure installation, and treatment of roads and public spaces;*
8. *Encourages the State Party to pursue the establishment and operation of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for all cultural World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, which can also provide technical assistance for the Historic Centre of Bukhara, including representatives of regulatory authorities and appropriately skilled and experienced experts, to oversee conservation of the property, the protection of its OUV and the implementation of Committee's decisions and mission recommendations;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

### **39. Itchan Kala (Uzbekistan) (C 543)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/543/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/543/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 2019: USD 43,115 UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for Building capacity in managing World Heritage properties, interconnection of development and heritage preservation in Uzbekistan

#### Previous monitoring missions

1998: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management activities
- Restoration works conducted using non-traditional building material (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/543/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 29 April 2020, the World Heritage Centre requested a report from the State Party in order to obtain information on the progress achieved in addressing the recommendations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission, in light of emerging conservation issues at the property. On 29 June 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, followed by an update report on 9 January 2021; the executive summaries of these reports and the ICOMOS Advisory mission report are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/543/documents>. In February 2021, details of the proposed Mevaston hotel complex in Dishan Kala were also submitted for review.

The ICOMOS Advisory mission was requested by the State Party following an ICOMOS Technical Review of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) undertaken for a large-scale project within Dishan Kala, the outer city of Khiva and part of the property's proposed buffer zone, in which houses in two *mahallas* had been demolished. The Project of Detailed Planning of Historical Centre of Khiva (PDP) had been developed as part of the Master Plan of Khiva City for the period up to 2030, following the decree 'On the Program for Complex Development of Touristic Potential of the Khiva City and Khorezm Region for 2017-2021'.

The Technical Review recommended that demolitions and major interventions in the proposed buffer zone be halted along with the tourism programme until adequate protection and management were in place. The Advisory mission was then invited to provide inputs on the town-planning reconstruction project in the proposed buffer zone. The main recommendation was to halt further implementation of the PDP and revise it as a matter of urgency in order to:

- Preserve existing residential houses and public buildings alongside alleys, the historical road network and the historic marketplace;

- Restore the historical irregular urban morphology on the territories of demolished residential quarters;
- Reduce to a minimum the number of new two-storey buildings in the PDP.

The State Party's reports indicate that progress was made in addressing these recommendations as follows:

- The PDP is being revised in accordance with the recommendations of the ICOMOS Advisory mission and in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL). It is due for completion by the end of the 2021 and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. Meanwhile, two large urban areas of *mahallas* where houses were demolished remain unbuilt;
- A Tourism Destination Management Plan for tourism in Khiva has been developed;
- The draft Management Plan has been prepared and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review shortly, and a new Itchan Kala World Heritage Management Unit is being created;
- Tourism development will be limited in Itchan Kala and focused on Dishan Kala.

The State Party also reports that:

- Several traditional houses in Itchan Kala have collapsed due to severe termite infestation or have been demolished due to safety concerns and replaced with new buildings for residential or tourism purposes;
- The lack of proper planning and regulatory tools to protect and control the evolution of the historic urban fabric hampers the sustained efforts of the Khorezm Regional Department of Cultural Heritage (KRDCH) in managing the historic city;
- A new train station has been constructed outside Dishan Kala to serve the high-speed rail link with Bukhara and Samarkand, together with a very broad promenade that links it to the property.

On the positive side, it is reported that:

- A great number of ancient khivan houses have been rehabilitated using traditional materials and techniques;
- The Amir Tura Madrasah and the Hassan Murad Kushbegi Mosque have been restored with support from the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, and the former now houses a seasonal school for restorers;
- The dormitories of the Madrasah Muhammad Rahim Khan II have been converted into tourist accommodation.

The State Party also mentions several issues relating to conservation, in particular the need for water and sanitation networks within the property, in order to improve public health and conditions of cultural heritage.

ICOMOS carried out a technical review of the proposed Mevaston Hotel to be built on part of one of the demolished *mahallas* in Dishan Kala. The recommendations were transmitted to the State Party on 20 April 2021.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The halting of demolition and any further development in Dishan Kala (the proposed buffer zone) and the revision of PDP in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory mission and the HUL approach are welcome, as is the creation of a new World Heritage Management Unit. Legal frameworks have also been strengthened since 2018 as a result of a national initiative, and a national Cultural Heritage Committee was established under the Cabinet of Ministers. As the State Party is establishing an 'International Advisory Committee' (IAC) for cultural World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, coordination is required to ensure proper follow-up of Committee decisions and mission recommendations.

The revised PDP will now be subject to an independent HIA and both will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. Given the scope and scale of this project, sufficient time will be needed to

allow for discussions with the State Party following their submission. How the PDP links to the Khiva Master Plan will also need to be clearly defined.

As noted by the mission, the PDP and the Khiva Master Plan are being developed in response to considerable development pressures impacting on the city, including from rapid urban development supported by significant investments and from increased tourism resulting from the new rail link. The new Tourism Destination Management Plan is aimed at guiding investments across the city, and it is noted that these will be focused on Dishan Kala rather than Itchan Kala in order to avoid displacing residents living in the property. How this Plan relates to the PDP and the Master Plan is unclear.

The weak management system prevailing in 2018 and the lack of adequate conservation and management programmes meant that the city was not robust enough to withstand these pressures. Demolition and re-building are also beginning to be seen in parts of Itchan Kala. The State Party acknowledges that the KRDC has inadequate planning and regulatory tools to allow it to properly manage the historic city. It also acknowledges that capacity building for decision makers, conservation professionals and developers is greatly needed in Khiva, especially in the fields of brick building conservation, reuse of historic monuments, and planning for regeneration. The State Party further acknowledges that tangible and intangible cultural heritage need to be better understood to achieve inclusive and holistic urban regeneration processes.

The proposed creation of an Itchan Kala World Heritage Management Unit is to be welcomed as is the development of a draft Management Plan.

Although the property's management and protection are now being improved, a further element that needs to be strengthened is the status of non-monumental urban fabric and the way it is understood, documented, and valued, both in the property and in Dishan Kala, its proposed buffer zone. Dishan Kala is inextricably linked with Itchan Kala, since it was the traditional residential area for the fortified city. The historical urban landscape of Dishan Kala needs to be valued as the historical setting of Itchan Kala; the overall urban grain as well as individual buildings should be sustained. The recent demolition of large areas of Dishan Kala that has erased their urban structure is to be regretted, and care must be taken to ensure that tourism requirements do not compromise the urban form. It is recommended that the State Party be urged to submit the buffer zone for review by the Advisory Bodies and subsequent approval by the Committee, in line with Decision **40 COM 8B.42**.

The traditional urban architecture of Khiva is distinctive and highly elaborate in places, as detailed in the draft Management Plan; its coherence and harmonious complexity were noted in the ICOMOS evaluation. At the time of inscription in 1990, 250 traditional houses in Itchan Kala were mentioned, and it was stated that work had started on the restoration and regeneration of ancient residential neighbourhoods. Such an approach is needed now to underpin the revised PDP. It will be essential that its approaches are based on a thorough analysis of both the urban form and traditional houses. The State Party's report mentions a 2015 study that produced a Geographic Information System (GIS) database of all buildings and structures of Itchan Kala based on background information, plot-by-plot surveys, and interviews. The cost of preventive conservation and restoring houses built of traditional materials is clearly a key issue, as the recent demolition of some in Itchan Kala has shown. Their conservation and use needs also to be addressed in the development of the policy tools, the Master Plan and the emerging Management Plan.

The property and its setting continue to be extremely vulnerable. The emerging Master Plan and PDP will define how Itchan Kala and its setting develop over the next few decades, which represents both an opportunity and a major challenge. It is recommended that the State Party consider how dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies might be incorporated into the planning processes to hold discussions before the final draft plans are submitted for review, in order to ensure that the attributes of OUV are sustained. Outlines of the Master Plan and the PDP should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for preliminary comments by the Advisory Bodies, and a phased dialogue to inform the further elaboration of these policy tools should be maintained.

Meanwhile, until the Master Plan and the PDP have been reviewed and approved by the Advisory Bodies, the moratorium on development should remain in place. The conservation issues are also having impacts on public health, and the condition of cultural heritage needs to be addressed so as to enable decent infrastructure for local residents without jeopardizing the authenticity of structures above and beneath the ground.

Finally, it is unfortunate that proposals for the Mevaston Hotel have moved forward prior to the approval of these plans. Although this project can be considered acceptable with some amendments, it cannot be seen as a model for other similar development on areas of demolished *mahallas*.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.39**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Welcomes the halting of demolition and reconstruction work in Dishan Kala, part of the proposed buffer zone, in line with the recommendations of the 2018 ICOMOS Advisory mission;
3. Also welcomes the proposed revision of the overarching Detailed Planning of Historical Centre of Khiva (PDP), which is part of the Master Plan of Khiva city for the period up to 2030 that was initiated following the decree 'On the Program for Complex Development of Touristic Potential of the Khiva City and Khorezm Region for 2017-2021';
4. Notes that this proposed revision will be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre outlines of the PDP and relevant sections of the Master Plan before these plans are approved, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Also requests the State Party to engage in phased dialogue and consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on further development of these important plans through capacity-building assistance, either virtually or in person, as these plans will define how Itchan Kala and its setting will develop over the next few decades;
6. Acknowledges the development and tourism pressures that are facing the city as a result of investments and the creation of a high-speed rail link to Bukhara and Samarkand, and also notes the development of a Tourism Destination Management Plan;
7. Regrets the demolition of large areas of Dishan Kala and considers that the status of non-monumental urban fabric needs to be strengthened both in the property and in Dishan Kala, the traditional residential area for the fortified city, and that the interlinkages between these two areas, which together formed ancient Khiva, must be strengthened to ensure that the urban grain and individual buildings are sustained;
8. Further notes the focus on the distinctive traditional architecture of Khiva in the draft Management Plan and the existence of a Geographic Information System (GIS) database of all buildings and structures of Itchan Kala, and urges the State Party to ensure that the PDP, the Master Plan and the Management Plan address the issue of conservation and use of historical and architectural heritage, including principles and urgent measures to improve the preventative conservation of this housing stock, and to put in place any necessary incentives;
9. Further welcomes progress with strengthening the management system through the creation of a new World Heritage Management Unit for the property, acknowledges that legal frameworks have been strengthened since 2018, as a result of a national initiative that includes the establishment of a Cultural Heritage Committee under the Cabinet of Ministers, and notes furthermore that the State Party acknowledges that:

- a) *There is a need for capacity building for decision makers, conservation professionals and developers, especially in the fields of brick building conservation, reuse of historic monuments, and planning for regeneration,*
  - b) *Tangible and intangible cultural heritage need to be better understood to achieve inclusive and holistic urban regeneration processes,*
  - c) *Proper coordination with the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for cultural World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan is needed to ensure follow-up of the Committee's decisions and the mission's recommendations;*
10. *Also considers that the draft Management Plan for the property needs to be amended accordingly and to include measures that encompass the historic urban environment for both the property and its proposed buffer zone, and that the amended Management Plan should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
  11. *Further considers that the property continues to be extremely vulnerable, and also urges the State Party to maintain the moratorium on demolition and reconstruction until the PDP and the Master Plan have been reviewed and approved by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and the proposed buffer zone has been approved by the World Heritage Committee, in line with Decision **40 COM 8B.42**;*
  12. *Recommends that conservation issues having an impact on public health and the condition of heritage be addressed in a way that respects the need for adequate infrastructure while protecting the authenticity of heritage structures above and below ground;*
  13. *Also regrets that the development of the Mevaston Hotel occurred before revised proposals and plans were approved, and considers furthermore that, while this project might be acceptable with some revisions, it cannot be taken as a model for development in areas of demolished mahallas;*
  14. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022.*

#### **40. Samarkand – Crossroad of Cultures (Uzbekistan) (C 603rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1999 to 2018)

Total amount approved: USD 44,800

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 from the UNESCO/Spain Funds-in-Trust; 2016: USD 30,670 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for the Application of the UNESCO Recommendation

on Historic Urban landscape (HUL, 2011) at the World Heritage properties of the Historic Centre of Bukhara and Samarkand; 2019: USD 43,115 UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project for Building capacity in managing WH properties, interconnection of development and heritage preservation in Uzbekistan

#### Previous monitoring missions

April 2005: UNESCO Tashkent Office/ICOMOS expert mission; March 2006: UNESCO Tashkent Office/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2006: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; December 2007: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2009: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2020: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (Large-scale development projects such as road building)
- Housing (Traditional housing and proposed demolition of *mahalla* residential areas)
- Management deficiency (Impact of urban landscaping programme on the authenticity and integrity of the property)
- Management Systems/Management Plan (Lack of strategic approach to urban conservation; Lack of implementation of the management plan and need to integrate with the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) Recommendation)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Proposed 'Samarkand City Tourist Zone')
- Others (Conservation of urban fabric)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/>

#### Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in January 2020 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/603/documents/>). Subsequently, the State Party submitted state of conservation reports on 27 January 2020 and in January 2021, which are available at the link above and provide the following information:

- Samarkand is undergoing urban regeneration aimed at improving quality of life, supporting economic development and ensuring a healthy environment while achieving heritage conservation;
- The Tashkent Research and Design Institute for Urban Planning is finalizing the Master Plan, which addresses the 2020 mission recommendations, and embraces the 2011 *UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* (HUL), integrating social and economic development with urban heritage conservation, as well as the new Traffic Scheme and detailed planning for the historic centre and buffer zone. These documents will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before final approval;
- There has been strong political support for the preservation of urban heritage through legislative changes that improve protection and responsibility, an updated inventory of protected buildings, the Project for Detailed Planning (PDP) and the cessation of demolition in residential areas. Development Control guidelines for the property and its buffer zone are in preparation. The Management Plan, which also follows the HUL approach, remains in progress, with assessments completed, an overall vision, objectives and actions drafted, and actions under discussion with the communities living in the affected *mahallas*;
- Streetscape improvement works include a new network of pedestrian streets;
- A digital model of the property and buffer zone has been completed. New boundaries for the buffer zone of the property are being determined, taking into consideration the recommendations of the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission, and a proposal for a minor boundary modification will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The Samarkand Provincial Government created a new touristic zone away from the historic centre and its buffer zone, adjacent to the Samarkand rowing canal, which is being developed as a venue for major projects related to the International Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in 2022, as well as the relocated multi-functional Samarkand City Tourist Zone. Current projects

within the property include a new hotel to replace a former eleven-storey hotel, adaptive re-use of the existing structure of a former factory, and refurbishment of two existing hotels, involving the modification of façades without any change to footprint or height. The Hilton Hotel on Ibn Sina Boulevard, within the potential buffer zone extension, is under construction;

- The State Party is establishing an International Advisory Committee (IAC) for cultural World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan. Progress has been made, including liaison with the World Heritage Centre, identification of potential members, and budget allocation, with a first meeting expected in 2021 to ensure follow-up of the Committee decisions and Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations;
- The Prime Minister has signed a Decree establishing the Scientific Research Institute on Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture of Uzbekistan;
- Measures to increase awareness among local populations have been taken, such as the appointment of community inspectors, and public information materials were produced;
- The limited resources, both human and financial, of the Samarkand Department for Cultural Heritage remain a concern and the need for further capacity building remains;
- The implementation of UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust project “Building capacity in managing World Heritage properties, interconnection of development and heritage preservation in Uzbekistan and Central Asia” has been progressing, and an online training workshop took place in May 2021.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Recent decisions by the State Party and its government agencies have addressed some significant threats to the Outstanding Universal value (OUV) of the property. The following initiatives and activities are all welcome: regulatory changes and continuing improvements to management planning and guidance documents; the cancellation of demolition of areas with private houses and development projects, including those named the Samarkand City, Jamshid Precinct, Namazgoh and proposed hotel sites near Spartak Stadium; a moratorium on demolition and development; the re-location of the Samarkand Touristic Zone; and a revision of the Traffic Scheme. A proposal for construction of an astronomical complex near the observatory Mirzo Ulughbek, within the property, has been subject to a technical review by ICOMOS, which has recommended that a different location should be pursued.

The 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission concluded that there are no major new threats to the attributes that contribute to the OUV of the property, including its authenticity and integrity, but that the property remains impacted adversely by intrusive urban development, including some illegal constructions and insensitive development. Reports of demolition within the property continue, especially in the *mahalla* precincts, and it is evident that significant buildings were damaged. The preparation of new Urban Design Guidelines, a Master Plan for the city and a new revised Management Plan for the property are all welcome, but additional work is needed to integrate the HUL approach within the Master Plan, and further training on HUL is required. Additional guidelines are needed for the *mahalla* residential precincts, covering conservation, the introduction of new infrastructure, and alterations and additions. The assurances from the State Party that the recommendations from the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission are being followed-up are welcome.

The overall moratorium on demolition and new development should remain and be more rigorously communicated and enforced until the integrated Master Plan for the City and the Management Plan for the property are finalised, following submission to the World Heritage Centre and review by the Advisory Bodies. However, the ‘Imari’ development, a large, illegally constructed residential project with an unacceptable visual impact on the property, should be removed or substantially modified.

The World Heritage Committee has previously approved the overall approach to the conservation of significant buildings, as set out in the draft Management Plan for the property. Consistent with this approach, the State Party should proceed in a measured manner through the preparation of an appropriate legal and management system and related conservation and development policies and guidelines that will facilitate a sensitive conservation approach, supported by the development of conservation plans for individual projects. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a comprehensive programme of intended conservation projects to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies. Apart from urgent stabilisation works, conservation programmes should generally remain on hold until the proposed conservation and development policies and guidelines for the property are in place. In this regard, the Committee should recommend that the



proposed physical conservation programme for Bibi Khanoum Ensemble and Mosque be undertaken in logical stages, with priority given to urgent stabilisation works, and guided by expert advice and a comprehensive site-specific conservation plan. It is also recommended that the Committee remind the State Party that any priority project within the property should be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), prepared in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS *Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties*, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

The proposed International Advisory Committee (IAC) for World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan should include representatives of regulatory authorities and appropriately skilled and experienced experts, and should oversee the conservation of the property, the protection of its OUV and the implementation of the Committee's decisions and of mission recommendations.

Despite the State Party's assurance concerning social measures, including the appointment of local inspectors, the World Heritage Centre continues to receive third-party information concerning the demolition of or damage to historical monuments and other issues relating to the management of the property. Improved consultation and communication among the authorities at the national, regional and municipal levels regarding the State Party's obligations for the preservation of the property, as well as towards the developers, general public and local communities, remain an important factor to improve the management of the property.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.40**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.77**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the recent decisions by the State Party to address some significant threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including through regulatory changes, continuing improvements to management planning and guidance documents, the cancellation of demolition and development projects, the current moratorium on demolition and development, the relocation of the Samarkand Touristic Zone, and the revision of the Traffic Scheme;*
4. *Also welcomes the preparation of new Urban Design Guidelines, a Master Plan for the City and a new revised Management Plan for the property, notes that additional work is still needed to integrate the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach within the Master Plan, and requests that the overall moratorium on demolition and new development remain in place until the integrated Master Plan for the City and the Management Plan for the property are finalised, after submission to the World Heritage Centre and review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Takes note of the 2020 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and urges the State Party to implement fully its recommendations, having particular regard to:*
  - a) *Improved communication concerning World Heritage requirements, processes and procedures between the national, regional and municipal authorities of the State Party,*
  - b) *Capacity building and training regarding requirements of the Convention, the Operational Guidelines and the HUL Recommendation,*
  - c) *The preparation of guidelines for the mahalla residential precincts, covering conservation, the introduction of new infrastructure and alterations and additions to existing dwellings,*

- d) *The development of a public realm design code,*
  - e) *The removal or substantial revision of the illegal 'Imari' development and changes to the Hilton Hotel development,*
  - f) *Improved public consultation and communication of World Heritage values to the local stakeholders;*
6. *Also requests* *the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies:*
- a) *Regulations and guidelines for the development, restoration, and adaptive reuse of the historic centre and its buffer zones, as previously requested,*
  - b) *A comprehensive programme of intended conservation projects,*
  - c) *Details of the proposed physical conservation programme for Bibi Khanoum Ensemble and Mosque, which should be undertaken in logical stages, with priority given to urgent stabilisation works, and guided by expert advice and a comprehensive site-specific conservation plan,*
  - d) *The revised Traffic Scheme for the City,*
  - e) *The foreseen proposal for a minor boundary modification concerning the adjustment of the buffer zone to align it with mahalla boundaries, to be prepared and submitted in accordance with paragraph 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines;*
  - f) *Reports on the social and other measures taken relating to communication and enforcement of the moratorium on demolition of houses and residential areas at the property;*
7. *Further requests* *the State Party to pursue alternative locations for the proposed astronomical complex near the observatory Mirzo Ulughbek, in accordance with the ICOMOS Technical Review;*
8. *Reminds* *the State Party that it is invited to submit, in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed project documentation related to any pressing priority projects, which are proposed to proceed, despite the general moratorium;*
9. *Encourages* *the State Party to pursue the establishment and operation of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for all cultural World Heritage properties in Uzbekistan, which should include representatives of regulatory authorities and appropriately skilled and experienced experts, to oversee the conservation of the property, the protection of its OUV, and the implementation of decisions and mission recommendations;*
10. *Finally requests* *the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, 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 45th session in 2022.*

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 41. Historic Centre of the City of Salzburg (Austria) (C 784)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/784/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/784/assistance>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

January 2009: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (hydroelectric power station Salzburg-Lehen) (issue resolved)
- Ground transport infrastructure (train station project outside the buffer zone) (issue resolved)
- Housing (urban development pressure, high-rise projects)
- Management systems/management plan (integrated approach towards management; apparent lack of legislative and planning mechanisms)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/784/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 3 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/784/documents/> and reports on the following:

- Residential Area Dr. Franz-Rehrl Platz ('City Life'): Latest version plans show minor revision of building heights;
- Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstrasse / Bahnhofsvorplatz: The project was finalized with a total building height of 52.9 m. The State Party submitted photos of other nearby high-rise buildings along with a photo showing the current skyline;
- Paracelsus indoor swimming pool: The project was finalized with a homogenous façade, as reported in the state of conservation report in 2018. The State Party reports a minor negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thun-Strasse: Construction was finalized in 2016;
- Priesterhausgarten housing project: A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), carried out in 2019, concluded that the project in its current form would adversely affect the OUV of the property. It advised that the present plans should not be implemented. The relocation of the touristic bus terminal is urgent and any temporary use must not have any further impacts. Improving the management measures in the buffer zone must be considered. The developers have not taken any further actions since the conclusions of the HIA were published;

- Submission of the revision of the Management Plan: The City of Salzburg revised the Management Plan, reference to Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIAs/HIAs) and use of a newly developed digital 3D city model. Test implementation commenced in February 2020;
- Legislative and planning mechanisms: In addition to the Conservation Act for the Historic Town, the City Council adopted special regulations for large-scale developments outside the boundaries of the protection zone in November 2019, which stipulate that project dossiers for “sensitive areas” (e.g. near the buffer zone or with possible impacts on vistas with historic significance) should include analyses about the surrounding historic building stock and structures, for revision by an expert commission. The State Party reports that a comprehensive land use plan does not seem to be a practicable and sufficient management instrument;
- Dialogue with the local communities: ‘World Heritage Quarter Dialogues’, instituted to foster the involvement of the local communities in the safeguarding of the historic quarters, will be continued in 2019 and 2020;
- The proposed remodelling of the building at Herbert-von-Karajan Square 9 will be presented to the World Heritage Centre for review in accordance with the regulations of the new Management Plan.

On 29 January 2021, the State Party submitted additional information regarding the following issues:

- Residential Area Dr. Franz-Rehrl Platz (‘City Life’): additional visualizations showing cityscapes including the project from different viewpoints;
- Restoration and extension of the Mozarteum Foundation: visualizations showing cityscapes and photographs of the building.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Although the State Party submitted copies of the final plans of the Dr. Franz-Rehrl-Platz residential project, including additional visualisations, the submitted information is not adequate to review the potential impact of the project. As per previous Committee Decisions, the State Party should still provide detailed information on the latest revisions of the project, including sections, façade drawings, and 3D CG simulation to show the project within its surroundings, before any irreversible decisions are made, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

While the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre about the restoration and extension of the Mozarteum Foundation, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit detailed project information, including a motivation, photographs of the existing exterior and interior, floor plans, sections, all façade drawings and 3D visualizations to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies. Similar information should be submitted on the remodelling of the Salzburger Festspiele Building (Herbert-von-Karajan-Square 9).

The Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstrasse / Bahnhofsvorplatz project has regrettably been completed before agreement was reached about the project and without any visual material for the project being submitted to the World Heritage Centre as per previous Committee Decisions. Similarly, the Paracelsus indoor swimming pool has been finalized.

Regarding the building at Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thun-Strasse, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regret that it was built in 2016 despite the negative impact on the visual integrity of the property, especially on its vista toward the skyline of the mountain setting from the bank of river Salzach, and with its disturbing contrast to the neighbouring buildings. No further information on the final construction and its visualization has yet been submitted. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide further information on how to reduce the adverse effect created by this project on the OUV of the property and include a similar request on the Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstrasse / Bahnhofsvorplatz project and Paracelsus pool.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies support the conclusion of the 2019 HIA for the Priesterhausgarten project that, in its current version, would adversely affect the OUV of the property. The State Party should keep the World Heritage Centre informed without any delay with regard to any future developments of this project.

HIAs should be carried out for any future major project that may have a negative impact to the OUV of the property, within the property or in adjacent areas.

The revision and submission of the revised management plan is welcomed as an important accomplishment. Standardization of the monitoring system, references to the need for HIAs and

inclusion of a consultation mechanism for private projects are welcome, but greater clarity is needed on the definition of the attributes that convey OUV, on how coordination mechanisms will work between different divisions and various plans inside the city or between the city and the federal state and the federal government. The Management Plan is currently in test operation; further updates should therefore be provided to the World Heritage Centre, as it is important to ensure its effective implementation.

While welcoming the City Council's new regulations for large-scale developments outside the boundaries of the protection zone to control developments near the buffer zone, or with possible impacts on vistas and attributes, as well as the setting of the OUV, it is crucial to establish a comprehensive land use plan to control the urban sprawl, protect green areas, safeguard existing visual axes and protect the setting of the property.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.41**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.80**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Deeply regrets that the Schwarzstrasse 45 / Ernest-Thun-Strasse project, the Nelböck Viaduct Rainerstrasse / Bahnhofsvorplatz project and the Paracelsus indoor swimming pool were completed before agreement was reached on their designs, despite the requests made at its previous sessions, and the negative impact of these projects on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property; requests the State Party to provide further information on the final constructions, and develop measures to mitigate the negative impacts of these projects on the OUV of the property and submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review before implementing them;*
4. *Also requests the State Party to resubmit the latest version of detailed plans, including sections, façade drawings, and 3D CG simulation to show the project within its surroundings, for the development at the Residential Area Dr. Franz-Rehrl Platz (Residential Buildings City Life Rehrlplatz), which takes into account Decision **41 COM 7B.41** and **43 COM 7B.80**, and to submit detailed project information, including sections, all façade drawings, and 3D visualizations for the modification of the Mozarteum Foundation and the Salzburger Festspiele Building to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any rights are granted or implementation undertaken;*
5. *Acknowledges the reported Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the Priesterhausgarten housing project undertaken in 2019 concluded that the project in its current version would adversely affect the OUV of the property and further requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed without any delay with regard to any future developments of this project;*
6. *Welcomes the submission of the revised Management Plan, notes that the Advisory Bodies will provide a technical review to assist the State Party for further revision before its final adoption, requests furthermore the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with regular and updated information on the results of the testing phase of the Management Plan implementation;*
7. *Also welcomes progress made and efforts of the State Party concerning the introduction of new regulations for large-scale developments outside the property boundaries and near the buffer zone to ensure adequate protection and control of the property and its*

landscape setting, reiterates its requests to develop a comprehensive Urban Land Use Plan to further strengthen the protection of the setting of the property;

8. Requests moreover the State Party to carry out HIAs, including visual impact assessments for projects which may have a negative impact on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, before any irrevocable decisions are taken concerning the projects;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 42. Old City of Dubrovnik (Croatia) (C 95ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1991-1998

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1985-2003)

Total amount approved: USD 142,053

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total Amount of the post-war major restoration programme coordinated by UNESCO: USD 80,000,000

### Previous monitoring missions

November 1996: fact-finding mission; November 2015: joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict (issue resolved)
- Earthquake in September 1996 (issue resolved)
- Need to extend the buffer zone
- Large project in the vicinity of the property
- Cruise ship tourism
- Carrying capacity of the property
- Planned Sport and recreation centre with golf course and tourist settlement (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/>

### Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, the summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/95/documents>. This report provides information on measures implemented by the State Party in response to the Decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018), including:

- Progress with preparation of a Conservation Study and Plan for the preservation, restoration and maintenance of the historic core of Dubrovnik;
- Development of the Management Plan, which is at the drafting phase;

- Commencement of the preparation of the Interpretation Strategy;
- Suspension of the Bosanka 2 Project and elaboration of a new urban development plan for the project area;
- Cancellation of the Lazaretto Landing stage project;
- Improvement of tourism management, including Memoranda of Understanding signed between the City and both the Cruise Lines International Association and the Global Sustainable Council;
- Progress with the renovation of the historic sewer system, including features revealed during works;
- The 2018 legislative amendment, introducing the provisions for a conservation study for the buffer zone of the property.

Other conservation issues identified by the State Party in the report include further information on the restoration of Orlando's column, implementation of an educational programme on waste management in the city and initiatives celebrating the 40th anniversary of the property's inscription on the World Heritage List. In addition, in October 2018, ICOMOS provided a positive technical review of the proposed construction of the new Hotel Belvedere, which is on a prominent site, overlooking the property.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The Committee's previous recommendations are being addressed by the State Party, which outlined an ambitious programme for 2020, including the completion of the Conservation Plan for the Historic Core of Dubrovnik, the Management Plan for the property including a Risk Assessment Plan, the Sustainable Tourism Development and Carrying Capacity project, an Interpretation Strategy, and a monitoring report on Orlando's column. The State Party has confirmed that these plans and reports will be sent to the World Heritage Centre upon completion.

A number of other issues and projects remain current, including the 'Respect the City' initiative, the Bosanka development (subject to elaboration of a new urban development plan), and actions which will arise from the Memoranda of Understanding between the City of Dubrovnik and The Cruise Lines International Association and with the Global Sustainable Council. This progress is to be welcomed, but the majority of actions and reports requested in previous Committee decisions are yet to be completed and implemented.

The Committee has previously noted that the restoration of the historic sewage system had the potential to affect significant engineering structures and archaeological features, and requested that information on this project be provided to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before works commenced. It is regrettable, that the works appear to have proceeded without this important step, but the documentation relating to this programme, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) undertaken in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, should nevertheless be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.42**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 42 COM 7B.20, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Notes the measures being taken by the State Party to address the Committee's previous requests to mitigate the threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including new urban development plans and agreements directed at improved tourism management;
4. Also notes progress achieved with the development of the Management Plan and related conservation and management documents, and requests the State Party to finalize and

submit the following documents to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies:

- a) *The Conservation Plan for the Historic Core of Dubrovnik,*
  - b) *The Management Plan, including Risk Assessment Plan,*
  - c) *The Sustainable Tourism Development and Carrying Capacity project,*
  - d) *The Interpretation Strategy,*
  - e) *The monitoring report on Orlando's column;*
5. *Reiterates its previous requests to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre comprehensive project details, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) undertaken in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties for the repair works, which have been undertaken for the sewer system, and the proposed Bosanka 2 project (if and when it proceeds), for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
  6. *Also requests the State Party to submit a report on actions arising from the Memoranda of Understanding between the City of Dubrovnik and The Cruise Lines International Association and between the City of Dubrovnik and the Global Sustainable Council;*
  7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

**43. Venetian Works of Defence between 15th and 17th centuries: Stato da Terra – western Stato da Mar (Croatia/Italy/Montenegro) (C 1533)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1533/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1533/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription:

- Lack of a framework for Heritage Impact Assessment for development proposals
- Need to revise the buffer zones
- Lack of management plans for each component
- Intrusive and redundant elements within the serial components



- Lack of a Tourism Carrying Capacity study and of visitor management plans
- Lack of a transnational values-based conservation strategy

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1533/>

Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2019, the States Parties submitted a joint report on the state of conservation of the transnational serial property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1533/documents>. Additional information was submitted on 31 January 2020. The reports address recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property in 2017 (Decision **41 COM 8B.21**), as follows:

- The Management Plan for the transnational property is valid and listed network projects are being implemented and an international coordinating team for the monitoring of the property was created in January 2019;
- The inventory of the attributes of the property for the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) framework has begun;
- Conservation efforts and resources deployed at the Fortified Cities of Peschiera del Garda and Bergamo and at the City Fortress of Palmanova, including a project to create an ascent and panoramic outlook point at the aqueduct's piezometric tower, are reported. A study for conservation works was completed for the Fort of St Nikola in Šibenik-Knin County; no specific information for the Defensive System of Zadar and the City of Kotor is included;
- Studies for revising/enlarging the buffer zone have begun in Peschiera del Garda; its revision is being prepared in Kotor, while in Zadar the present buffer zone is considered appropriate;
- Promotion activities took place in Palmanova, Peschiera del Garda and Bergamo. In Zadar, guidelines and conservation study programmes have been initiated, and funds secured for the Zadar Management Plan. The finalized Management Plan for the Fort of St Nikola was expected by the end of 2019. No update on the elaboration of the management plans is provided for Palmanova, Peschiera del Garda and Bergamo. The Management Plan for the World Heritage property "Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor" is being updated to address the recommendations of the 2018 mission, and will be integrated with the Spatial Urban Plan and influence future relevant legislation in Montenegro;
- Carrying capacity studies are underway for Bergamo, Palmanova and Peschiera del Garda and will be finalised in 2020, and drafting of visitor management plans for Italian components is planned for 2020. A tourist development plan 2016 – 2026 is in place in Zadar. The Management Plan for the Fort of St Nikola will address visitor and risk management issues. A Cultural Tourism Strategy is expected to be adopted for Montenegro, after which a local strategy will be discussed;
- Technical workshops are organized for developing a transnational values-based conservation strategy. Fondazione Bergamo has been delegated to improve the transnational property and to support the activities of the transnational secretariat;
- Projects concerning some of the components are as follows:
  - Bergamo: updates on the underground Fara parking structure adjacent to the Upper City walls (property and buffer zone) are summarised. This project has been the subject of third-party correspondence, and a discussion between the State Party and the World Heritage Centre,
  - Zadar: an international competition for the renewal of the Citadela Bastion, the EU-funded Zadar Heritage Project, including revitalization of 785m of the northern part of city walls, and the "Ravnice Project", near Forte Fort, are reported,
  - Šibenik: provisions are in place to guarantee control over projects. A visitor centre located in Minerska Bay in the buffer zone is mentioned,
  - Kotor: a project for a cable car from the Old Town to the fortress S. Giovanni was cancelled, although alternatives will continue to be explored;
- Between 2018 and 2019, Zadar municipality removed 157 parking spaces along the northern parts of the walls. No progress is reported on the relocation of intrusive developments in Kotor.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The States Parties have made some progress in the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, namely by establishing the International Coordinating Team and approving its functioning procedures, and by advancing in the conservation of the property, although initiatives and progress remain uneven.

Progress in addressing other recommendations appears to be limited: the HIA framework is still at an early stage, with only the preliminary identification of the attributes of the property and its component parts being prepared. The process of modifying the buffer zones has been advanced, particularly at the component of Peschiera del Garda, where preliminary inventory of the later fortifications has been carried out. In Kotor, the revision has just begun, following Decision **42 COM 8B.38**, while the buffer zone in Zadar is considered adequate as it is; however, no explanation is provided by the State Party to support its position, and the need for expanding the buffer zone as requested by the World Heritage Committee still holds valid, also in light of development projects being planned. Progress in preparing the individual Management Plans is reported only for the Fort of St Nikola, for which the Plan is in the drafting phase and will have to be coordinated with the Integrated Coastal Zone Plan but no information has been provided on whether progress has been made in preparing the individual Management Plans at other components, as recommended in Decision **41 COM 8B.21**.

For the planned car park project in Bergamo, two ICOMOS Technical Reviews have been provided, the latest of which (December 2019) advises again the State Party to prepare an HIA focused on the impact of the project to the Bergamo component and to elaborate a comprehensive parking and traffic plan. Moreover, it provides further recommendations and points out mitigation measures, which the State Party should be advised to follow.

No advancement is reported on the relocation of visually intrusive urban and industrial developments within Kotor. However, it should be noted that the state of conservation of this component of the property is reviewed in conjunction with the report on the state of conservation of the World Heritage property "Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor" (see draft Decision **44 COM 7B.50**). The Amendments of the Law on Protection of Natural and Culturo-historic Region of Kotor were passed in order to offer increased clarity on the application of HIAs while awaiting the adoption of the revised Management Plan.

Tourism carrying capacity studies are proceeding slowly, and so is the elaboration of visitor management plans. The World Heritage Committee may therefore wish to recommend the expedition of the completion of these studies and plans. The first steps of developing a common Outstanding Universal Value-based conservation strategy are underway but much work remains to be done for its achievement.

The States Parties have begun to work on the identification of attributes and the preliminary results are promising, although further deepening is necessary to achieve a complete spectrum of the attributes useful for management and conservation purposes.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.43**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 8B.21**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Welcomes the States Parties' progress in setting up the International Coordinating Team and in the conservation of the property, especially for the components of Palmanova, Peschiera del Garda and Bergamo;*
4. *Requests the States Parties to expedite the accomplishment of the World Heritage Committee recommendations, particularly by:*
  - a) *Finalizing carrying capacity studies and the subsequent visitor management plans as an urgent priority,*

- b) *Revising and enlarging the buffer zones as specified for the components of Peschiera del Garda, Kotor and Zadar,*
  - c) *Developing and implementing the Management Plans for each component based clearly on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the transnational serial property, including the identification of attributes for each component,*
  - d) *Developing transnational research and values-based conservation, promotion and interpretation strategies for the property, based on specialist expertise in Venetian 'alla moderna' defensive structures as a tool to assist the National and International Coordination Teams also through good practice sharing,*
  - e) *Finalizing monitoring arrangements for the whole serial property through the work of the International Coordinating Team,*
  - f) *Continuing to develop and implement the framework for Heritage Impact Assessment (HIAs) as a matter of urgency for development proposals (including those related to tourism management and access),*
  - g) *Continuing efforts to relocate intrusive and redundant elements within the serial components such as the intrusive car parking (Zadar); and visually intrusive urban and industrial developments (Kotor). These objectives should be included in the site Management Plans, subjected to HIAs and monitored;*
5. Also requests the States Parties to submit project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies for the following projects:
- a) *Renewal of the Citadela Bastion in Zadar,*
  - b) *Ravnice Urban Plan,*
  - c) *Visitor centre at Minerska bay,*
  - d) *Creation of an ascent and panoramic outlook point at the aqueduct's piezometric tower in Palmanova;*
6. Further requests the State Party of Italy to comply with ICOMOS' recommendations concerning the Fara parking project, and, in particular, to submit the Heritage Impact Assessment requested by ICOMOS in December 2019 as a matter of urgency and to develop a comprehensive plan for parking infrastructure and traffic control to reduce traffic and to reduce or ration car parking opportunities in the Upper City of Bergamo for non-residents in this part of the town;
7. Requests furthermore the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023.

#### 44. Historic Centre of Prague (Czechia) (C 616bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (ii) (iv) (vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2003-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 115,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

March 2008, January 2010, and March 2019: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Development of high-rise constructions on the Pankrác Plain
- Lack of effectiveness of existing planning, management, and conservation measures for the property, particularly lack of specific regulations for high-rise developments
- Lack of Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for proposed projects which may affect the OUV of the property
- Lack of a finalized Management Plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in March 2019 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/documents/>). The mission report includes recommendations regarding the Management Plan for the property, the draft Metropolitan Plan, amendments to the *Act for Cultural Heritage Preservation*, Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) processes, the buffer zone, and individual places and projects within the property.

Subsequently, on 25 February 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, with extensive annexes, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/616/documents/>, providing the following information:

- There is an alignment between the principles of the Management Plan and the City of Prague Metropolitan Plan, but the applicable statutory framework does not allow for designated heritage zones and monuments and for heritage conservation requirements to take precedence over other policies;
- The draft Metropolitan Plan will introduce a range of instruments covering height control, regulation of development, panoramas, vistas and local character objectives;
- The State Party continues to raise issues resulting from different interpretations of the Committee Decision **32 COM 7B.86**, with regard to the Pankrác Plain;
- Progress has been made towards removing the conceptual plan for infilling the current built form cluster on the Pankrác Plain from the Metropolitan Plan. There is also ongoing discussion regarding the broader planning and development context – which is complicated by existing projects and approvals, especially the approval of the construction of the Rezidence Park Kavčí Hory project to the west of the Pentagon;

- Regarding the Committee's request to submit a HIA for any proposed project which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, the State Party explains that HIAs have no basis in Czech law and the Management Plan adequately addresses conservation needs. The State Party also informs that periodic reports and other information about major plans fulfil the intent of the Committee's HIA request;
- New methodological guidelines and other publications have been issued by the Heritage Department of Prague City Hall;
- The North-South Trunk Road will be transformed into an urban boulevard, and fulfil a new role in the life of the city;
- Information is also provided on a project at Wenceslas Square, progress towards possible intervention in relation to Vyšehrad Station, and the future vision for the area within the Žižkov Station and its surroundings.

On 9 November 2020, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre, that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be undertaken for the planned cable car project between Podbaba-Troja-Bohnice located within the buffer zone of the property.

On 24 March 2021, the State Party organized the online seminar *Integrating Urban Heritage in Urban Planning Processes* with the support of the World Heritage Centre. The State Party presented the progress made in regard to the development of the Metropolitan Plan and UNESCO provided a perspective on the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape.

On 31 March 2021, the State Party provided further advice regarding the workshop outcomes, proposed preparation of a new zoning plan, implementation of the 2019 mission report recommendations, negotiations regarding the scale of new development in the Pankrác Plain area and a proposed architectural competition for revitalisation of the former Masaryk Railway Station.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party continues to develop important strategic documents, including amendments to the *Act for Cultural Heritage Preservation* and a draft *Building Act*, the Management Plan for the property (now largely completed) and the City of Prague Metropolitan Plan. These processes do not yet adequately address the findings of the 2010 and 2019 missions or previous Committee Decisions. It is welcome that the State Party organized an online seminar *Integrating Urban Heritage in Urban Planning Processes*, with the support of the World Heritage Centre, and as recommended by the 2019 mission. It is noted that at this workshop, the State Party presented progress with development of the Metropolitan Plan and that the relevance of the 2011 Recommendation Historic Urban landscape (HUL Recommendation) was highlighted.

With regard to the cable car project planned in the buffer zone, an initial technical review by ICOMOS concluded that it will not be generally visible from the property. The proposed architectural competition for revitalisation of the former Masaryk Railway Station is welcome and it is recommended to remind the State Party of the provisions in Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and the obligation to submit proposals to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies for any major interventions in and around the property that might have an impact on its OUV, including the guidelines for the design competition entries or their Terms of Reference.

Notwithstanding the recent workshop, the lack of primacy afforded to the retention of the OUV remains an issue for the property. Furthermore, the concern expressed in the property's Statement of the OUV that: *the integrity of the Historic Centre of Prague is threatened by the pressure of the developers wishing to build oversized new buildings in the historic centre and its buffer zone* persists. The 2019 mission concluded that although the property is generally in a good state of conservation, potential danger to its OUV exists, as defined in Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*. As an example, the application of height limits originally set for the Pentagon to the Pankrác Plain resulted in approval of the inappropriate Residence Park Kavčí Hory project. The recent information provided to the World Heritage Centre on ongoing negotiations with the developer regarding the scale of the new development in the Pankrác Plain area is welcome. It remains concerning that since 2010, the State Party has not otherwise responded to recommendations and requests with respect to large-scale development projects proposed within the buffer zone and the wider setting of the property, nor adopted a high-rise limitations plan, in order to avoid a visual change in the historic urban landscape of Prague.

Comprehensive measures are required to remove potential threats to the OUV of the property, particularly modifications to the detailed building height controls across the city should be included in the draft Metropolitan Plan, in accordance with the findings and recommendations of the 2019 mission. The identification and protection of designated heritage reserves and monuments, and that of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone should also be integrated in the Plan. It is recommended that the State Party and its responsible agencies recognize that high-rise construction on the Pankrác Plain, including buildings erected prior to inscription of the property, is inconsistent with retention of the OUV and that the Committee's Decision **32 COM 7B.86** applies to the totality of the Pankrác Plain. It is also recommended that the State Party implements an immediate moratorium on buildings above the general height of their surroundings on the Pankrác Plain (as defined in Figure 32 of the 2019 mission report) and gives priority to developing and implementing appropriate regulations, including a high-rise limitations plan, with specific regulations to prevent the negative impact caused by the existing cluster of high-rise buildings. The State Party may be reminded that HIAs are vital for development projects and activities that are planned within or around a World Heritage property in conformity with Paragraph 118bis of the *Operational Guidelines*. HIAs for all proposed projects, together with an assessment of cumulative impacts of projects within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting is needed to be undertaken and submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, focusing on their potential impact on the OUV of the property.

Since the State Party has indicated that it is hindered to respond to the requests of the World Heritage Committee due to the established legal framework, it is recommended that the Committee advises the revision of the legal measures to ensure adequate protection for the World Heritage property and its OUV. As it stands at present, the OUV of the property remains under threat, and inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger may become necessary to provide a framework and facilitate a process by which ongoing threats and further damage to the authenticity and integrity of the property may be prevented.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.44**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.73** and **42 COM 7B.21**, adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the organization of the online seminar 'Integrating Urban Heritage in Urban Planning Processes' with the support of the World Heritage Centre following the recommendation of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as well as the inclusion of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL Recommendation) and the focus on preparation of the City of Prague Metropolitan Plan, and requests the State Party to submit the plan upon its finalization to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;*
4. *Also notes the information provided by the State Party about a range of conservation projects, as well as the progress towards statutory changes, and the pending finalization of the Management Plan for the property, but expresses concern that these processes do not yet adequately address previous Committee decisions or the findings of the 2010 and 2019 Reactive Monitoring missions;*
5. *Further notes the information submitted by the State Party regarding the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the planned cable car project located between Podbada-Troja-Bohnice within the buffer zone of the property, and also requests the State Party to submit the proposal for the cable car project along with the EIA and SEA to the World Heritage Centre for*

review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;

6. Notes furthermore the proposed architectural competition for revitalisation of the former Masaryk Railway Station and also invites the State Party to transmit to the World Heritage Centre, detailed information on the project proposals including the Terms of Reference or guidelines for design competition entries, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Endorses the 2019 mission recommendations and also requests the State Party to implement them fully particularly the:
  - a) Advancement in aligning national and local laws and regulations with those necessary for heritage protection and management of World Heritage properties in accordance with the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines, and in line with international norms and standards that may include new laws as well as amendments to existing ones such as the Amendment of the State Heritage Care Act, and the Act for Cultural Heritage Preservation,
  - b) Refinement and finalization of the Management Plan for the property in line with the HUL Recommendation and its integration and alignment with the City of Prague Metropolitan Plan to ensure protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in its setting,
  - c) Establishment of intersectoral coordination so that heritage protection is integrated with urban development plans, policies and processes across different sectors from transport to housing, water supply, tourism, and land management,
  - d) Establishment of building regulations that may be varied for each quarter or historical block as appropriate, to guide and manage the identity of the built form at a range of scales from volume and height to building materials, colours, railings, and doorframes,
  - e) Preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in line with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties (2011 ICOMOS Guidance) to assess the effect of significant policies and projects on the OUV of the property,
  - f) Specific recommendations regarding individual components, buildings, and projects;
8. Reiterates its great concern about the longstanding potential and ascertained threats to the property, as defined in Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, due to continued inadequate management of issues such as the extensive large-scale urban development in the buffer zone of the property and its wider setting, as well as the lack of adequate regulations for high-rise developments that have had continued to adversely impacts on the property's OUV;
9. Notes with concern that the State Party has not implemented the Committee's previous request to introduce a general moratorium on major projects within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting as requested in the Committee Decision **42 COM 7B.21**, and further requests the State Party to implement an immediate moratorium on buildings above the general height of their surroundings on the Pankrác Plain (as defined in Figure 32 of the 2019 mission report), and give priority to developing and implementing appropriate building regulations, including a high-rise limitations plan; and reminds the State Party that high-rise construction on the Pankrác Plain is inconsistent with the

protection of the OUV of the property and that the Committee Decision 32 COM 7B.86 applies to the totality of the Pankrác Plain;

10. Requests furthermore that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines:
  - a) HIAs for all proposed projects which may affect the OUV of the property prepared in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance,
  - b) An assessment of the cumulative impacts of all executed projects within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting, from the baseline of the condition at the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List, regarding the impact of these projects on the OUV of the property;
11. Considers that the property's authenticity and integrity is threatened by the above described factors, therefore, requests moreover the State Party to reinforce the protection and management of the property, including the revision of the legal framework that are designed to ensure these, and prevent any future damage to its OUV;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023, **with a view to considering, in absence of substantial progress in complying with the decisions of the Committee and the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 mission, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

#### **45. Landscape for Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruby nad Labem (Czechia) (C 1589)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1589/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1589/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

##### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription:

- Lack of revised management plan, including visitor strategy
- Need to improve risk management
- High-voltage power lines crossing the landscape and visual impact of the Chvaletice power station
- Necessity to ensure the correct interpretation of the site as a cultural landscape



*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1589/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1589/documents/> and addresses recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property in 2019 (Decision **43 COM 8B.27**), as follows:

- The process for enlarging the buffer zone southwards initiated and expected to be finalised by mid-2020;
- The first draft of the new Management Plan (2021 – 2026) submitted to the World Heritage Centre will be enforced by 1 January 2021. The creation of a digital archive for the property is envisaged in the draft Management Plan;
- The first draft of a visitor strategy is being reviewed;
- A risk analysis, including risks associated with climate change prepared and will be implemented as per existing regulations;
- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) approach is already implicitly embedded in the Czech legal framework (Act n.20/1987 Coll.). Heritage management bodies provide binding opinions on all planned modifications to protected monuments, based on expert reviews. The National Heritage Institute provides expert opinions on local development plans of municipalities located within the property;
- The Agreement on the General Principles of Restoration and Further Development of the Landscape for breeding and training of ceremonial carriage horses at Kladruby nad Labem has been updated, integrating an explicit commitment of the relevant ministries to monitor potential conflicts between infrastructure projects and conservation, and possible impact of river tourism on the historic hydraulic system and the Natura 2000 site;
- The Principles of Land Development in the Pardubický Region were updated in June 2019, envisaging explicitly the relocation of power lines and establishing a new potential corridor. Minimizing the visual impact of the Chvaletice power station is addressed in the new Management Plan through a vegetation screen;
- Measures are proposed to ensure that restoration and ongoing maintenance of vegetation respects the property's landscape value, and to appoint three new staff members;
- Initiatives for improving the interpretation of the property are based on the provisional Statement of Outstanding Universal Value; five major projects are planned within the property and a further three are planned in the buffer zone.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has addressed all key recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee: some are in a more advanced state of implementation whilst others have only been included in relevant updated planning documents.

The southwards expansion of the buffer zone has been defined and a map submitted, and the process appears well advanced, although not yet finalized.

A new draft Management Plan (2021-2026) exists, sections of which have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The available drafts suggest that a thorough work on the identification of themes, objectives, actions and actors has been carried out. The synoptic table would benefit from the introduction of priorities and budget needs. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the complete version of the plan to the World Heritage Centre.

The draft visitor strategy is to be welcomed and should be finalised and implemented. The main threats and related risks, including those associated with climate change, have been assessed in the risk analysis and emergency measures identified. The State Party should be encouraged to document the governance chain in case of disastrous events and to establish coordination with the property management to avoid negative impacts deriving from general emergency measures.

The State Party considers that an HIA approach is embedded implicitly in the legislation and it does not deem further efforts necessary in this direction as the provisions of the law would suffice. However, the mechanisms described in the report are common to most national legislations and do not seem to

address impacts on intangible dimensions and attributes of the property as they focus on either structures or the landscape and not specifically on the attributes of the OUV: it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to work further on this to ensure that an HIA approach for World Heritage is embedded in the management mechanisms.

The update of the “Agreement on General Principles of Restoration and Further Development” and the “Principles of Land Development” represents important progress, particularly as the latter envisages the relocation of the high voltage power lines crossing the property and the identification of a potential corridor. The intention to add to the management unit of the property an arborist, a horticulturalist and a landscape architect to implement the principles included in the “Agreement” is welcome: no indication of a timeframe is offered though, nor of the financial resources needed.

The steps undertaken to improve the interpretation of the property are welcomed and should be continued, possibly by expanding the offer to other foreign languages. The programme envisaged for the digital archive is well-articulated and its implementation is to be fostered.

Regarding the eight major projects within the property and its buffer zone, the World Heritage Centre has invited the State Party to submit project documentation and relevant HIAs for review. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to address this request and to submit a timeframe for the implementation of the projects.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.45**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 8B.27, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the progress achieved in responding to the World Heritage Committee's recommendations;*
4. *Also welcomes the advancements in expanding the buffer zone to the south of the property, and invites the State Party to finalize the procedure by submitting a request for a minor boundary modification for approval by the World Heritage Committee;*
5. *Further welcomes the progress made in updating the Management Plan and in preparing a Visitor Strategy, and requests the State Party to finalize and implement both and to submit a full version of the Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre;*
6. *Notes the proposal to include in the management unit an arborist, a horticulturalist and a landscape architect, and encourages the State Party to provide a timeframe for their appointment;*
7. *Recommends the State Party to describe the governance system in place in case of disaster and to establish coordination mechanisms with the property management unit to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is taken into due consideration in emergency situations;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to integrate a Heritage Impact Assessment approach into the management system that specifically addresses the OUV of the property;*
9. *Welcomes furthermore the provision included in the updated Principles for Land Development in Pardubicky Region for relocating the high-voltage power lines outside the property, and further requests the State Party to define a timeframe for this relocation;*

10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to provide documentation and relevant HIAs on the eight major projects planned within the property and the buffer zone, as well as a timeframe for their implementation, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
11. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.*

#### **46. Paris, Bank of the Seine (France) (C 600)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/600/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/600/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

##### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Project of new buildings within the historic setting (issue resolved)
- Fire at the Notre-Dame Cathedral of Paris on 15 April 2019

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/600/>

##### Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2019, in response to World Heritage Committee decision **43 COM 7B.82**, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/600/documents/>. On 29 January 2021, the State Party submitted an update to this report. The progress made is presented in these reports, as follows:

- The securisation-consolidation phase, still ongoing, should be completed in summer 2021. In parallel with this phase, diagnostic studies have been commissioned to assess the needs for conservation and restoration work. Once these steps are completed, the restoration phase of the damaged and destroyed elements will begin at the end of 2021;
- Consolidation work on the different parts of the building was carried out, including the laying of tarpaulins and protective nets, the removal of rubble from the ground, the consolidation of the flying buttresses of the choir and the nave as well as the walls above the vaults. To enable the diagnosis to begin, it was necessary to clean the vaults and dismantle the scaffolding located at the crossing of the transept. Important work remains to be done in order to ensure that the risk of the building collapsing is definitively eliminated: the continued removal of the rubble, the stabilization of the nave and the installation of a foot scaffolding;
- Regarding the state of conservation of the cathedral, the high vaults have been seriously affected due to the fall of the structural elements, the gables have been weakened and their condition

varies depending on their location; parts of the south and north towers were also affected by the fire and show varying degrees of damage. All of the stained-glass windows were spared and have been removed by master glassmakers;

- Many items of furniture have been stored away in museums. Those that remain in place are inspected regularly, with the exception of the pulpit, which is still inaccessible.

In addition, the State Party is making efforts to reconcile the urgency of interventions and the health protection of workers, in particular against the risk of lead contamination. The State Party also emphasizes the strong involvement of the community of researchers who regard the rubble as samples bearing important information on the history of the construction of Notre-Dame, the methods and materials used.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

According to reports submitted by the State Party, the phase of ensuring the security of Notre-Dame Cathedral is still underway despite the emergency measures and works carried out. Significant work remains to be done to avert the risk of the collapse of the building. This first securisation-consolidation phase should be completed in summer 2021. It is important that this phase be carried out with the greatest possible care in order to conserve as much of the damaged materials and fragments as possible to ensure that future conservation interventions are not predetermined in this emergency phase. It is only after this phase that the restoration phase of the damaged elements will begin.

The World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and ICOMOS have taken note of the measures taken by the State Party to prepare for the next phase of restoration and establish optimal conditions for the conservation and restoration of the building, in particular the creation by the 29 July 2019 decree of a public establishment responsible for the conservation and restoration of the cathedral, placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture, and which also takes into account the health and safety of workers.

The strong involvement of the research community in the analysis of the rubble and remains of the disaster for the purpose of understanding the history of the cathedral, its construction methods during successive construction sites and its architecture is also noted with satisfaction.

The World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and ICOMOS have taken note of the proposed restoration approach, consisting in restoring the architecture of Viollet-le-Duc, in particular with regard to the roof and the spire. In order to allow the restoration work to be carried out by the State Party to comply with the recommendations of the *World Heritage Convention*, it is recommended that the Committee reminds the State Party of the need to inform the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies of the methodology it proposes for the restoration of the building, as well as the system to monitor the structural stability of the cathedral, and the preventive measures and actions to avoid future fire risks, in accordance with the paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

To facilitate this process, it is recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to strengthen the current coordination with UNESCO, ICOMOS and ICCROM, which will appoint three experts to assist the State Party, and to engage in regular and enhanced dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. This would promote a clearer understanding of the different restoration options that are being discussed or considered for parts of the building. It is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to invite an Advisory mission as soon as circumstances permit, and in the meantime to submit exhaustive graphic and photographic documentation of the interventions already carried out and in progress documenting all the stages of these interventions, before, during and after the work.

The Committee could also request the State Party to submit a detailed progress report by 1 February 2022 which would present the assessment of the processes undertaken to date, the challenges in terms of restoration that need to be addressed, and the methodology that is being considered.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.46**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*

2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.82** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Notes the information provided by the State Party concerning the work to secure and consolidate Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, and commends the State Party for the efforts undertaken to ensure the safeguarding of the property;
4. Recommends that the securisation-consolidation works continue to be carried out with the greatest attention in order to preserve the damaged materials and fragments as much as possible, to ensure that future conservation is not predetermined by emergency interventions;
5. Also recommends, as work progresses towards the restoration phase, that the State Party strengthen the current coordination with UNESCO, ICOMOS, and ICCROM, which will provide three experts to assist the State Party, and engage in regular and enhanced dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, thus promoting a clearer understanding of the different restoration options that are being debated or considered and how they take into account the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Encourages the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission as soon as circumstances permit, and in the meantime invites the State Party to submit exhaustive graphic and photographic documentation of the interventions already carried out and in progress, describing all stages of these interventions, before, during and after the work;
7. Invites the State Party, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to inform the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies of proposals for the restoration of the damaged parts before irreversible decisions are made, as well as the system for monitoring the structural stability of the cathedral and preventive measures and actions to avoid future fire risks;
8. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, a detailed updated report on the state of conservation of the property, in particular the measures taken for its consolidation, as well as the guidelines envisaged for its restoration, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022.

#### **47. Gelati Monastery (Georgia) (C 710bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2010-2017

Irreversible interventions as part of major reconstruction of the structure of Bagrati Cathedral

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

November 2003, June 2008, March 2010, April 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; October 2014: ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to Gelati Monastery; January 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- General need for interior and exterior conservation work on the monuments
- Construction of the visitor centre outside the Gelati Monastery
- Major reconstruction of the structure of Bagrati Cathedral (completed)
- Insufficient coordination between the Georgian Church and the national authorities (issue resolved)
- Lack of co-ordinated management system (issue resolved)
- Water (rain and groundwater)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/>

### Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, the summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/710/documents/>. It provides information on measures implemented by the State Party in response to the Decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), as follows:

- An annual budget has been established for long-term preservation programmes;
- Restoration and stabilisation works were completed;
- Continuous digital monitoring of the structural stability of the Church of the Virgin has commenced;
- A decision has been taken to continue to house monks in the existing accommodation at the property;
- The Georgian Cultural Heritage Data Management Geo-Informational System and GIS Portal is open to public access;
- A participatory process has been established within the Cultural Heritage Council of the National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation of Georgia (NACHP);
- A *World Heritage Protection Council of Georgia*, which will include representation from key stakeholders, has been established through a Government Decree;
- The Management Committee provided for in the Management Plan 2017-2021 has not been established;
- The State Party is seeking assistance on developing monitoring indicators.

On 4 September 2020, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre that the newly-installed tiled roof of the Church of the Virgin was failing, leading to rainwater damage that affected the wall paintings, mosaics and stonework. It also reported moisture related persistent problems in St George's Church. Remedial steps then undertaken included:

- A programme of monitoring and reporting on the wall paintings and mosaics;
- Installing a temporary sheet-metal covering directly onto the roof on the Church of the Virgin.

The State Party requested assistance from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to address this issue urgently. It provided additional information including a proposal to remedially install a temporarily roof over the Church of the Virgin, on which ICOMOS provided a technical review.

The State Party submitted additional documentation, outlining the actions undertaken as a response to the ICOMOS technical review. Following a digital meeting with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies on 1 April 2021, the State Party highlighted that specific expertise was required to undertake further emergency response and proposed a framework for collaborative methodological assistance.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has initiated many welcomed steps to address the Committee's past Decisions aimed to enforce the management system of the property, including its monitoring. The conservation actions undertaken have unfortunately not all been successful. The failure of the recently installed tiled roofs on the Church of the Virgin and the persistent moisture problems at St George's Church has resulted in damage to the wall paintings and mosaics inside both churches, which has a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The State Party's engagement with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to redress these problems is therefore welcome.

The action undertaken by the State Party to temporarily cover the roof of the Church of the Virgin is likewise welcome, but a solution which will allow reroofing while safeguarding the church is needed. The State Party has made proposals to improve the covering of the church. These have been reviewed by ICOMOS, which recommended that the St George's Church also urgently be covered in such a manner that rain and snow is kept away from the building, while allowing conservation work to continue.

These problems exacerbate the fragile state of conservation of this property. It is disconcerting that this situation has arisen so soon after the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2017 (Decision **41 COM 7A.20**). Some of the Committee's requests from its 2017 Decision related to the significant boundary modification of the property (**41 COM 8B.31**) remain to be addressed, which, if implemented, offer mechanisms to address the new problems as well. This includes the request to implement a system of documentation of conservation. It is therefore recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to urgently develop a costed conservation programme, including monitoring, research and implementation for the property, including all wall-paintings, mosaics and stonework of the two churches, and submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. The Committee may wish to call on the International Community to provide technical and financial assistance to the State Party to safeguard this property in line with the approved conservation plan.

More information on which monitoring indicators are used to monitor the attributes of OUV is required. The tri-dimensional structural monitoring system already in use at the Church of the Virgin should be extended to St George's Church and other important structures of the property.

The establishment of the World Heritage Protection Council of Georgia is welcome. However, it remains unclear if and how this Council will act as the coordinating committee for this property as requested by the Committee (**41 COM 8B.31**). An update on the activities of this Council in addressing the conservation challenges at this property would be welcome. The State Party has not provided clarity on how the Management Plan 2017-2021 has been given official status in planning processes. It is also of concern that the Management Committee provided for in the Management Plan has not been established yet. This plan will need to be reviewed and updated.

### Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.47

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7A.20** and **41 COM 8B.31**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Notes the unfortunate failure of the new roof of the Church of the Virgin and the continuing degradation through moisture ingress in St George's Church which is leading to decay of stonework, mosaics and wall paintings;
4. Welcomes the State Party's action to install a temporary roof over the Church of the Virgin, and its monitoring and reporting of the damage to the stonework, wall-paintings and mosaics in the churches of the property, and requests the State Party to urgently:
  - a) *Provide a more workable solution to covering over both the Church of the Virgin and St George's Church in a manner that allows for conservation activities to take*

*place uninterruptedly without risk of moisture ingress, and submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before implementation,*

- b) Develop a costed conservation programme for the property, including monitoring, research and implementation of conservation work to wall-paintings, mosaics and stonework of the two churches, and submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. Also requests the State Party to:
    - a) *Continue its efforts to develop monitoring indicators for monitoring the state of conservation of the attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value of the property,*
    - b) *Extend the tri-dimensional structural monitoring to St George's Church and other important structures at the property as well,*
    - c) *Provide a report on the activities of the World Heritage Protection Council of Georgia in relation to the Committee's request for a coordinating committee for this property in its next report on the state of conservation of this property;*
  6. Further requests the State Party to review and update the Management Plan for the property and submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, and establish a Management Committee for its implementation, additionally, reiterates its request to the State Party to consider putting in place a mechanism that will allow the Management Plan, or part of it, to have status in planning processes;
  7. Calls for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide more financial and technical support to the State Party, including through a request to the World Heritage Fund "Conservation & Management" International Assistance, to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;
  8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022.

#### **48. Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia) (C 708)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

#### **49. Budapest, including the Banks of the Danube, the Buda Castle Quarter and Andrassy Avenue (Hungary) (C 400bis)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add



## 50. Venice and its Lagoon (Italy) (C 394)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## 51. Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor (Montenegro) (C 125ter)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1979-2003

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1979-1982)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2003: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; January 2006: Management Planning Course; February 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; March 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; October-November 2018: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Earthquake damage (issue resolved)
- Lack of Management System/Management Plan
- Inadequate legal framework
- Building and development (accelerated urban development and urban pressure)
- Ground transportation infrastructure (proposed major bridge at Verige and other proposed development projects)
- Lack of buffer zone (issue resolved)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Land conversion
- Society's valuing of heritage
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/125/documents/>. The State Party provided additional information and updates throughout 2020 and in early 2021. These documents report progress in a number of areas addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The draft Spatial Urban Plan for Kotor Municipality has been revised on the basis of the recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission and the December 2019 ICOMOS Technical review, and also incorporated the results of public consultation. The proposed Spatial Urban Plan was transferred to the World Heritage Centre in May 2020 for final comments and ICOMOS provided a Technical review in June 2020. The Spatial Urban Plan was adopted in summer 2020;

- The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor for Harmonizing Policy/Planning Framework and Instruments was completed and is now undergoing institutional review before final revisions and submission to the World Heritage Centre;
- The new Amendments of the Law on Protection of Natural and Culturo-historic Region of Kotor were passed in December 2019;
- The Management Plan is being updated to give consideration to the recommendations of the 2018 mission, and will be integrated with the Spatial Urban Plan and influence future legislation;
- HIAs for the proposed Morinj accommodation complex, the reconstruction of the Hotel Teuta in Risan, the preliminary design of the planned Marriott Hotel in Kotor, and the Port of Kotor Business Plan were carried out and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The Ministry of Transport has begun preparations for an HIA of the proposed Verige Bridge;
- Concerns raised about the Silence of Administration administrative rule were addressed during the drafting of the forthcoming Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures;
- A buffer zone study will be implemented to define in which areas in and around the property an HIA should be required for potential projects, as foreseen in the Amendments to the Law on Protection of the Natural and Culturo-historic Region of Kotor;
- A Detailed Urban Plan for Lepetani is underway by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and on completion it will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- Information has been provided regarding two proposed projects in the buffer zone: a local road across the Luštica peninsula and a Kotor-Lovćen cable car;
- Information has been provided regarding the upgrading of the sewage system around Kotor Bay and the reconstruction and the expansion of a hotel development within the boundaries of the property; a project for an underpass near the old town of Kotor is being translated into one of the working languages of the *World Heritage Convention*, after which it will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre.

On 23 April 2021, the World Heritage Centre requested information from the State Party in line with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines* on the planned construction of an apartment complex in Risan.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

Progress in implementing the Committee's decisions continues to be made and the recommendations of the 2018 mission are being integrated into a number of strategic documents and long-term planning tools.

The Amendments of the Law on Protection of Natural and Culturo-historic Region of Kotor were passed in order to offer increased clarity on the application of HIAs while awaiting the adoption of the revised Management Plan. It is reported that the revised Management Plan in turn will prompt further legislation for improving the management system. This process has shown the need for a more nuanced approach to the buffer zone and therefore a study is foreseen to define those areas in which projects will require an obligatory HIA.

The Spatial Urban Plan for Kotor Municipality has been adopted, while the HIA for Harmonizing Policy/Planning Framework and Instruments should soon be sent to the World Heritage Centre for review. In addition, work is underway for a Detailed Urban Plan for Lepetani, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review prior to its adoption. These efforts show the commitment of the State Party to translating its World Heritage obligations into the management of the property.

However, further improvements are needed to make sure that this strategic planning is reflected in decision-making for individual projects. Although the State Party regularly communicates with the World Heritage Centre regarding project proposals and HIAs are carried out, there continues to be a divergence between some of the HIAs' conclusions and the recommendations of the 2018 mission and the ICOMOS Technical reviews. It is suggested that HIAs need to be carried out with full reference to the emerging strategic documents, that clear connections need to be made in HIAs between analysis of potential impacts on OUV and the report conclusions, and that (as recognized in Art. 2 of the Amended Law), the HIA process should inform all stages of design development, rather than being a retrospective assessment of a fully-developed project. This should be adopted for the forthcoming HIA for the Verige

Bridge and any other future assessments. The State Party's plan to harmonize the Management Plan, the Spatial Urban Plan and HIA is therefore much welcomed.

Following a high-level meeting, held at UNESCO Headquarters on 5 February 2020, between the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture, the Director of the World Heritage Centre and the Minister of Culture of Montenegro, a constructive dialogue was established between the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and national authorities in order to provide advisory assistance to the state institutions to improve HIA for the reconstruction of Hotel Teuta in Risan in the best possible way. On 25 September 2020, the State Party presented the revised plans for the reconstruction of the Hotel Teuta in Risan in an online meeting to the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS and subsequently submitted a revised HIA in November 2020. The new design proposal will reduce the negative impacts of the existing structure in close and more distant views (including from the archaeological site, Carine), improve the urban structure of Risan, and eliminate risk to any archaeological deposits below the made ground on which the hotel stands, which should be commended.

The proposals for a Kotor-Lovćen cable car and a local road for the Luštica peninsula seem to pose no problems at this stage, nor does the Business Plan for Kotor Port. However, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party, in addition to maintaining communication with the World Heritage Centre as plans are developed (for example, by providing Accurate Visual Representations for the cableway), to consider indirect and cumulative impacts of such projects on the property. The purpose of the Luštica road is to facilitate the construction of tourist resorts and, while improvements to Kotor Port are welcomed, one of its primary purposes remains that of hosting cruise ships. These cases point towards much bigger challenges in managing tourism and the impact it has on World Heritage, which goes beyond consideration of individual building or infrastructure projects.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.51**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.87**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the ongoing efforts of the State Party to improve the management system of the property, including by passing the Amendments of the Law on Protection of Natural and Culturo-historic Region of Kotor and the on-going revision of the Management Plan, the update of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor for Harmonizing Policy/Planning Framework and Instruments, and the development of the Detailed Urban Plan for Lepetani and the forthcoming buffer zone study, and requests the State Party to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre prior to their adoption;*
4. *Acknowledges the adoption of the Spatial Urban Plan for Kotor Municipality, and also welcomes that the recommendations in ICOMOS' Technical review of the draft plan have been taken into account in the adopted planning document;*
5. *Also requests that the revised Management Plan incorporate the recommendations of the 2018 mission so that it becomes a fully operational instrument for the efficient management of the entire property and its buffer zone, with binding policies and provisions endorsed at national and local government level within the changing legal framework, addressing the following issues in particular:*
  - a) *development issues, in harmony with the Spatial Urban Plan for Kotor Municipality,*
  - b) *the conservation of the tangible and intangible attributes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and other values,*
  - c) *disaster risk reduction,*

- d) *tourism management, including issues related to the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that tourism could have on the property;*
6. *Further welcomes the preparation of the HIAs requested for various development proposals and the regular communication of information on other projects under consideration, and encourages the State Party to continue improving the HIA process in light of the strategic documents being prepared for the property;*
7. *Commends the State Party for taking into consideration ICOMOS' recommendations in the reconstruction of the Hotel Teuta, and welcomes furthermore that the revised design plans substantially mitigate the negative impact of the existing hotel on the OUV of the World Heritage property;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to consider the conclusions of the ICOMOS Technical review on the Morinj accommodation complex, and to revisit the project in light of the Spatial Urban Plan for Kotor Municipality and consider other design alternatives that would avoid negative impacts on OUV;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies an HIA for the Verige Bridge project, Accurate Visual Representations for the Kotor-Lovćen cable car, documentation on the proposed underpass near Kotor old town and information on any developments foreseen associated with the Luštica peninsula road;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

**52. Auschwitz Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) (Poland) (C 31)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**53. Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System (Poland) (C 1539)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1539/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1539/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription:

- Lack of legal protection at the national level of all the structures above ground within the boundaries of the property;
- Change of ownership of the pumping station at Adolph Shaft which may alter in the medium- to long-term the quality and regularity of the extraction of the water necessary to conserve the underground chambers.

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1539/>

### Current conservation issues

On 24 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1539/documents/> and addresses recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property in 2017 (Decision **41 COM 8B.25**), as follows:

- Seven structures have been entered onto the register of monuments of the Silesian Voivodship and the municipality of Tarnowskie Góry has purchased an estate containing a machine shaft pertaining to attribute 1.5, and plots of land with post-mining landscape features, corresponding to attribute 3.2;
- Conservation programmes are under preparation and implementation for the outlet of Deep Adit Fryderyk and, once funds are available, shall be developed for the architectural setting of the ditch of the same Adit;
- The State Mining Authority reports that an inventory of the underground areas of the property will be carried out;
- Regarding steps taken towards the setting up of a multidisciplinary scientific committee, cooperation has been established between the Silesian University of Technology (SUT) and the Faculty of Earth Sciences of the University of Silesia. A cooperation agreement with the Tarnowskie Góry Land Lovers' Association was signed in 2018. Further steps include: the signing of a cooperation agreement between the municipality and the SUT within the framework of a project to strengthen biodiversity and protection of post-mining protected areas; the execution of a 3D laser scan survey of Hałda Popłuczkowa (character area A6) by the Faculty of Earth Sciences at the University of Silesia to monitor erosion of heap slopes; and establishing a research laboratory on the working conditions of industrial professions at SUT;
- The Upper Silesian Water Supply Company ensures the quality and regularity of water extraction at the water supply station at Adolf shaft is compatible with the preservation of the underground chambers;
- Underground research is limited to certain areas due to the requirement to use special equipment and as such research must be carried out under the supervision of the State Mining Authority. However, other research activities have been implemented in character areas A7 (former Fryderyk Mine, Park Kunszt) and A8 (Municipal Park in Tarnowskie Góry);
- The water tower adjacent to Kaehler Shaft was entered onto the register of monuments in September 2019, and works are underway to prepare the extension of the property to include the tower as well as studies to assess the possibility of extending the character area A5 to connect with A4.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

While the State Party reported that most of the Committee's recommendations have been addressed, their level of achievement is uneven.

The protection of seven structures of the property has been finalized. However, it is not clear whether further above-ground structures exist within the property or within the buffer zone that support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and whether these are covered by national legal protection, as requested by the Committee's recommendation. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide an inventory of those structures that are not yet protected.

Steps have been taken towards the establishment of a multidisciplinary scientific committee, however it is not yet in place and no clear timeframe is provided. The process of establishing the scientific committee should be expedited and a timeframe for its creation should be presented.

The State Party's response to the Committee's recommendation concerning the water pumping station at Adolph Shaft is very brief and is not supported by an explicit commitment from the Upper Silesian Water Supply Company to respect the OUV of the property and to ensure that their operations will not cause harm to its attributes. Further information is necessary with regard to the mechanisms in place to ensure that water extraction will not have negative impacts on the property.

The proposal for an inventory of the underground elements of the property should certainly be welcomed: a plan and a timeframe would facilitate its implementation and the monitoring of its advancement. With regard to archaeological research, the State Party has explained the limits of carrying out direct research in the underground element of phase I and phase II, and has reported on other research projects carried out since inscription, including those focusing on the mining landscape, as recommended by the Committee. However, the Committee's request to develop an archaeological investigation programme has not been addressed: this should include research themes and questions, priorities, areas to be researched, research options and methods, and a timeframe and resources.

The entry of the water tower adjacent to Kaehler Shaft onto the register of monuments is an important step towards its protection; however, this needs to be completed by the submission of the documents necessary for the inclusion of this element within the property. On the other hand, little progress seems to have been made in exploring the possibility of connecting character areas A5 and A4 above ground. The feasibility analysis of this extension should be finalized.

In summary, a number of requests made by the Committee remain outstanding. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to focus on their completion and implementation as soon as possible, and to keep the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies informed of their progress.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.53**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 8B.25**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Takes note of the progress made by the State Party in implementing its recommendations;*
4. *Welcomes the proposal for an inventory of the underground heritage elements of the property and invites the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a plan and a timeframe for such an inventory;*
5. *Requests the State Party to finalize and implement the legal protection at the national level of all above-ground structures within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone that support the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to provide to the World Heritage Centre an inventory of those structures that are not yet protected;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre further information with regard to the mechanisms in place to ensure that water extraction at Adolph Shaft will not have negative impacts on the property, including by obtaining an explicit commitment from the Upper Silesian Water Supply Company not to harm the OUV of the*

*property and its attributes, particularly the underground water chambers, in their operations;*

7. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop an archaeological investigation programme with a focus on the underground element of phase I, to the extent possible, and of phase II, with a particular focus on the mining landscape;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to finalize expeditiously and submit all necessary documentation for the addition to the property of the historic water tower immediately adjacent to Kaehler Shaft, and to conclude the feasibility analysis considering the extension of area A5 to join area A4;*
9. *Encourages the State Party to set up expeditiously the multidisciplinary scientific Committee as an advisory body to the Steering Committee, to assist in scientific research programmes;*
10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

**54. Royal Building of Mafra – Palace, Basilica, Convent, Cerco Garden and Hunting Park (Tapada) (Portugal) (C 1573)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1573/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1573/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription:

- Management and institutional factors (need to strengthen the research activities, management activities, the management system/management plan)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1573/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1573/documents/> and addresses recommendations made at the time of the inscription of the property in 2019, as follows:

- A preliminary landscape and historic study on the Tapada has been elaborated, supported by maps; inventories of arboreal species, the hydraulic system and the fortresses; and chronological tables. The study concludes that further research and a Management Plan with phased interventions are urgently necessary for the Tapada and its historic-cultural features;
- A Strategic Plan and a Management Plan for the Tapada are intended to be developed expeditiously, along with a Promotion Plan and a Strategic Tourism Plan, on the basis of a geo-referenced database. The development of an integrated Management Plan for the property is also envisaged;
- A Cooperation Protocol between the Municipality of Mafra, the School of Arms, the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage, the National Tapada of Mafra and the Parish of Mafra was signed on 15 February 2019, establishing a Cooperation Unit responsible for monitoring, conservation, research, education and promotion, and coordination of security plans and actions. Proposed rules of procedures for the Cooperation Unit are planned to be approved in early 2020. An Advisory Unit of several institutions will support the Cooperation Unit;
- A consolidated table of 82 interventions to take place in 2019-2034 is presented, indicating responsible actors for each action as well as the sources of funding, foreseen budgets, and the timeframe. Four interventions have been completed and two are currently under development while 24 are considered priority interventions. Timeframes and necessary budgets for some interventions are not yet verified;
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Portuguese Army, the Municipality of Mafra and the Portuguese Equestrian Federation to develop a project to enhance Portuguese equestrian tradition to be implemented between 2020 and 2023, including the requalification and rehabilitation of the Military Parade Square and restoration of several buildings adjacent to the Palace;
- A Management Conservation Plan is envisaged for Cerco Garden. The State Party's report outlines the objectives and the action plan, with 31 actions articulated over two timespans (2019–2024 and 2025–2027);
- An integrated visitor programme and the creation of a unique logo are under consideration as first steps for the interpretation and management of the property;
- The University of Lisbon has prepared a document on the scope of the archaeological survey for the whole of the property, including objectives, methodology and operationalisation in the short and medium term. Initial planned actions include the preparation of a preliminary report and the creation of a cooperation protocol between the Archaeological Centre of the University of Lisbon and the various property management bodies.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has addressed satisfactorily the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee, producing a detailed report backed up by 28 maps and numerous annexes.

The activity of the State Party since the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List has focused on systematizing and expanding knowledge and the documentation of the Tapada and its heritage features, including gardens, hydraulic systems, fortresses, the vegetation and its evolution. It is evident that the size of the property, and particularly of the Tapada, requires a strategy for documentation and further research developed in the long-term. The results achieved so far represent a robust base for continuing the research on the landscape attributes and historic development of the Tapada and of the hydraulic system, and for developing the Strategic and Management Plans envisaged by the State Party. It would be useful for the programmatic intentions of the State Party to be detailed in a road-map with a timeframe so that the above-mentioned plans can be developed rapidly. It would be equally useful to elaborate an integrated management strategy for the whole property on the basis of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) to ensure a common vision and coordinated action.

The Cooperation Protocol established between all key management bodies represents a major step towards a reinforced management system; the approval of the Rules of Procedure is thus urgent to ensure its implementation. To ensure that the Advisory Unit can be independent of the Cooperation Unit, it is suggested to appoint a different chairperson for each unit.

The consolidated table of planned interventions reflects the specific programmes in place at the time of inscription but, under the umbrella of the collaboration protocol, more robust and coordinated action can



be expected as well as an overview for the financial needs of all planned projects with eventual contributors. Additionally, the MoU between the Portuguese Army, the Municipality of Mafra and the Portuguese Equestrian Federation, and the inclusion of activities aimed towards the rehabilitation of the Military Parade, represents an important step forward. However, the timeframe of the MoU is three years, whilst the activities for enhancing the Military Parade extend to 2029 as per the above-mentioned consolidated table: an assessment of financial needs should be prepared and funds secured in order to guarantee the rapid implementation of this measure.

Preliminary elements for a conservation management plan of the Cerco Garden have been presented; however, these need to be further detailed and turned into a formal and implementable plan, with phased actions.

It is noted that timid progress has been made in the development of a unified strategy for the promotion and interpretation of the property. The establishment and functioning of the Cooperation Unit should facilitate the process.

With regard to the archaeological research programme, the preliminary steps outlined by the Archaeological Survey Protocol developed by the University of Lisbon appear reasonable and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to further develop the document into a strategy with an action plan indicating human and financial resources, priorities and timeframes.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.54**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 8B.30**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Commends the State Party for the extensive work carried out in consolidating and increasing the documentation of the property, and particularly of the Tapada;
4. Welcomes the stipulation of a Cooperation Protocol for the integrated management of Mafra, and recommends that the State Party consider the opportunity to appoint different chairpersons for the Cooperation Unit and the Advisory Unit, to approve expeditiously the Rules of Procedures for the integrated management of the Royal Building of Mafra and to harness the opportunities offered by the Cooperation Unit to further strengthen integration and coordination of the actions envisaged or planned by the different management actors on the property;
5. Encourages the State Party to continue its research and to develop expeditiously the envisaged Strategic and Management Plans for the Tapada, which shall include a chapter on the research programme, in order to tie together research advancements and management approaches and actions, and to develop an integrated management strategy for the whole property;
6. Also welcomes the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create an Equestrian Project in Mafra and the plans for improving the conditions of the Military Parade grounds, and also recommends that the State Party extend the timeframe of the MoU and allocate funds to achieve rapidly the enhancement of the Military Parade area;
7. Reiterates its recommendation to the Municipality of Mafra to develop a conservation plan for the Cerco Garden;
8. Further welcomes the preliminary document prepared on the archaeological research to be carried out at Mafra, and further recommends that the State Party develop it into a

*long-term strategy, accompanied by an Action Plan indicating human and financial resources, priorities and timeframes;*

9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **55. Aphrodisias (Turkey) (C 1519)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1519/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1519/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription:

- Need to revise the Management Plan
- Lack of legal protection for the entirety of the buffer zone
- Need to integrate the local community into the management system for the property
- Slow implementation of the drainage rehabilitation plan within the walled city
- Lack of a fire response plan
- Need to expand the patrols by the agricultural guards to include the quarry component and the whole of the buffer zone
- Need to conduct a full 3D inventory of the quarry faces in order to provide a baseline record of their condition
- Need to implement corrective conservation measures within the quarry component

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1519/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 December 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1519/documents/>, and addresses recommendations made at the time of inscription as follows:

- An assessment of the 5-year implementation of the management plan has been completed, as has an evaluation of the plan, legal regulations, the recommendations of the ICOMOS evaluation and the World Heritage Committee decision. A formal decision to revise the Management Plan was taken in March 2019, and relevant technical and legal studies are underway;
- A large part of the buffer zone is owned by the Treasury and protected under Forestry Law. For privately-owned land, development control is provided by the municipality development plan. Approaches to the conservation of these areas could be defined within the revised management plan;

- Local people are legally obliged to participate in the management system through representatives. All decisions in relation to work under the management plan are taken with such representatives;
- The excavation team have formulated and implemented monitoring indicators for the quarry component;
- Measures taken within the scope of the drainage rehabilitation plan to address rising ground water within the city are described. The key issue, however, is the removal of run-off from the hills to the northeast before it reaches the property. Sewerage and infrastructure works have been carried out to control water flow, and further work may be planned;
- Fire response plans and training are conducted by the excavation team and the Museum Directorate. Museum security cameras cover the property and are permanently monitored. The property is kept clear of tall grass and vegetation. There are fire extinguishers and fire cabinets in the museum and the excavation house, and two mobile water tanks on site;
- Patrolling of the property has been expanded. The gendarmerie carry out patrols in and around the city as well as around the quarries and the buffer zone;
- The excavation team has carried out a full 3D inventory of the quarry faces to provide a baseline record of their condition;
- In response to the Committee's recommendation to implement remedial conservation measures within the quarry component, it is reported that this is in a good state of preservation, broadly the same condition as in ancient times, and requires protection rather than conservation.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

Progress has made in relation to some of the Committee's recommendations and useful clarification is provided, for example, on the involvement of the local community in the management system and the police patrolling of the property. However, there are elements which have not been addressed and require further work. In particular, it is concerning that the formal revision of the management plan is apparently still at a preliminary stage. The previous plan covered the period 2014-2018 and subsequently requires updating, not least to reflect revised boundaries and protection measures. For example, it is not clear from the map provided that the quarry component is a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Conservation Zone. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the management plan as a priority to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption.

The Committee's request to the State Party to provide legal protection for the entirety of the buffer zone should be reiterated. In this regard, it would be appropriate to extend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Archaeological Conservation Zone to cover the entire buffer zone. This would also assist with development control under the municipal plan.

Regarding the quarry component, the State Party should be commended for conducting a full 3D inventory of the quarry faces to provide a baseline survey of their condition. However, it is unclear how this 3D survey is used in the monitoring of the quarries. The ICOMOS evaluation detailed some past and current uses and intrusions that require attention and noted that there was no conservation programme for the quarries. In this context, it is recommended that the Committee seek clarification regarding the monitoring programme and reiterate its recommendation that the State Party implement remedial conservation measures within the quarry component.

The progress undertaken within the scope of the drainage rehabilitation plan to address the issue of rising ground water inside the city is noted, including the detailed study of the hydrology of the property. The State Party should provide an update on this work and its results. Sewerage and infrastructure works have been implemented in Dortyol neighbourhood to mitigate the major issue of rainwater run-off from the hills to the northeast of the city. It should be noted that Dortyol neighbourhood is within the buffer zone and, at least partially, within the area currently protected as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Conservation Zone. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to clarify whether this is regarded as 'compulsory infrastructure', whether an impact study was carried out prior to this work, and how the State Party formally assesses the impacts of such infrastructure.

While the progress made in relation to facilities and training to mitigate the risk of fire should be recognised and commended, it is clear that there is a need for a detailed and coordinated fire response plan for the property, as has been developed for the excavation house. It is recommended that the

Committee request the State Party to submit a full fire prevention plan, including provision for a permanent fire suppression system, to the World Heritage Centre.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.55**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 8B.28**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished by the State Party, and requests it to continue working on the issues identified at the time of inscription, including by:
  - a) As a priority, submitting a fully revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption,
  - b) Providing for the legal protection for the entirety of the buffer zone by considering the extension of the 3rd Degree Conservation Zone to encompass all of the buffer zone,
  - c) Clarifying the relationship of the monitoring programme to the state of conservation of the quarry component and implementing a conservation programme, including remedial conservation measures, within that component,
  - d) Further implementing the drainage rehabilitation plan to provide an effective framework to solve the problems caused by rising ground water inside the walled city,
  - e) In relation to the sewerage and infrastructure works carried out in the buffer zone northeast of the walled city component, clarifying if this is a 'compulsory infrastructure' and whether an impact study was carried out prior to this work; and if so, how was the impact of 'compulsory infrastructure' assessed,
  - f) Developing a full fire prevention plan, including provision for a permanent fire suppression system and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre;
4. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

**56. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Turkey) (C 1488)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## 57. Göbekli Tepe (Turkey) (C 1572)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2018

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1572/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1572/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription:

- Developments around the property that may have an effect on the landscape and visual integrity and archaeological potential of the property
- Proposed railway line at the site
- Visual impact of the irrigation zone to the south-east and quarry to the west of the property
- Need to strengthen the protection measures for the buffer zone
- Development of the management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1572/>

Current conservation issues

On 6 December 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, the executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1572/documents/>. The report presents the State Party's progress with a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at the time of inscription, as follows:

- Details of the legal designations in place are provided. These are the means of implementing protective measures, including monitoring developments within and/or around the property that may have a negative impact;
- The proposed railway line has been re-located to run approximately 4.5km from the property. Documentation will be provided to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Impact assessments for proposed interventions will be undertaken, if deemed necessary;
- The visual impact of the irrigation channel, though still visible to a limited extent from the property, has been reduced following its completion and removal of rubble. The limestone quarry is not considered visually intrusive due to its location and scale;
- The Sanliurfa Regional Council for Conservation of Cultural Properties will re-assess the 3rd degree archaeological conservation area (the buffer zone) based on the results of field surveys to be carried out in 2020-2025. In the interim, the Council will not give consent for development within the buffer zone, with the exception of compulsory infrastructure;
- Regarding the development of the Management Plan, and the Committee's request to provide a full conservation plan, the State Party reports that the property has an operational conservation plan and outlines a number of current conservation measures and funding applications. The conservation plan is being revised in this context. The issue of risk preparedness is an integral part of the existing conservation strategy under review. On-site staff to carry out the management

of the property have been appointed. The issue of sustainable tourism development and infrastructure is covered in the management plan and will be an integral part of the visitor Management Plan. A protocol has been developed between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Sanliurfa Tourism Development Corporation to prepare the visitor management plan and a baseline survey work has been completed.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

Progress has been made in relation to some of the Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription. In particular, the ongoing development of the Management Plan is welcome, as is the appointment of staff to carry out the task of site manager, and the preparation of a visitor Management Plan, which will incorporate tourism management.

However, there are elements, which require further work, such as the full conservation plan to underpin a well-planned, resourced and long-term approach. Some immediate actions and funding applications are noted. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit a full conservation plan, as part of a revised Management Plan, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its adoption.

In relation to strengthening the protection measures for the buffer zone, the State Party's commitment to re-assess the 3rd degree archaeological conservation area, based on the results of a survey to be initiated in 2020, is welcome. In the interim, the State Party commits not to give consent for any development in the buffer zone, with the exception of compulsory infrastructure. As compulsory infrastructure is also mentioned in relation to the proposed railway, and recognizing that such projects could affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and do not appear to be covered by legal protective designations, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to clarify how it formally assesses the impacts of such infrastructure.

The State Party's response to the Committee's recommendation on the irrigation canal and quarry is noted, although the reasons for the Committee's recommendation remain valid. The photographs provided by the State Party appear to illustrate the negative visual impact of the irrigation canal and the quarry as visible from the property. It is recommended that active amelioration measures are implemented to reduce their visual impact.

The State Party indicates that the proposed railway line is now planned to be located 4.5km to the south and south-east of the property, and commits to providing the necessary documentation to the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies. Given the scale and potential impacts of this proposed development, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to develop a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed railway line to submit to the World Heritage Centre before its construction.

The State Party details the designations that are in place to protect the property, the buffer zone and the management zone. However, there is no indication of how these designations are being actively used in the management system to ensure the long-term preservation of the property and its OUV. The ICOMOS evaluation considered that the conditions of integrity and authenticity of the site are highly vulnerable due to the potential negative impact of future development projects and the limited nature of the documentation for the buffer zone and the management zone. In this context, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its recommendation to the State Party to closely monitor the potential negative impact of developments around the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.57**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 42 COM 8B.34, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Takes note of the progress accomplished by the State Party, and requests that it continues working on the issues identified at the time of inscription, by:*

- a) *Closely monitoring developments around the property that may have an impact on landscape and the integrity and archaeological potential of the property, including by providing a clarification of how the impact of 'compulsory infrastructure' is assessed,*
  - b) *Carrying out a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed railway line to the south of the site and its development and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre for review, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before the project's construction,*
  - c) *Taking active amelioration measures to ensure that the visual impact of the irrigation channel in the management zone and south-east of the property, and the visual impact of the quarry to the west, are reduced,*
  - d) *Continuing to re-assess the degree of statutory protection of the buffer zone based on the results of ongoing field surveys,*
  - e) *Further developing and strengthening the Management Plan, by:*
    - (i) *Developing a full conservation plan as the basis for a well-planned and long-term conservation approach (with an associated action plan and dedicated resources),*
    - (ii) *Based on existing documentation and further work, developing a risk preparedness plan, based on the Resource Manual Managing Disaster Risks at World Heritage (2010),*
    - (iii) *Continuing the development of the visitor management plan, including a tourism Management Plan and actions, time schedules and dedicated resources,*
    - (iv) *Through the site manager and other staff on site, expanding the effectiveness of the monitoring system by ensuring regular reporting on conservation work, risk assessment, visitor satisfaction, community involvement and broader environmental indicators, and submitting the reports to the World Heritage Centre;*
4. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **58. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Turkey) (C 356)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## 59. Kyiv: Saint-Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Ukraine) (C 527bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1998-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 74,665

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

May 1999: ICOMOS expert mission; April 2006: expert mission (Italian Funds-in-Trust); November 2007: World Heritage Centre information meeting for site managers; March 2009, November 2010, April 2013, March 2017 and February 2020: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; February–June 2017, September–December 2018 and May 2019: ICOMOS Advisory assistance

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of legal framework and planning mechanisms (issue resolved)
- Lack of management system and mechanisms of coordination between all stakeholders including the City Municipality
- Lack of management activities
- Urban development pressure
- High-rise buildings that could compromise the panorama of the historical monastic Dnieper river landscape (built)
- Need for finalization of new Management Plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/>

### Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, the summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/documents/>, which provides information on measures implemented by the State Party in response to Committee decisions, as follows:

- Urban development is under permanent State control; with no permits issued without review by the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS;
- Management Plan is being finalized after the implementation of ICOMOS advisory assistance for the initial stages of its preparation;
- Long-term Program on Restoration, Rehabilitation of monuments on the territory of the Lower Lavra;
- “Use regimes of the Saint-Sophia Cathedral” were developed, based on scientific and research work, including hydrogeological monitoring, engineering and technical monitoring of monuments, geodetic monitoring of deformations, microclimate monitoring and thermographic studies;
- Restoration and repair works have occurred at Saint-Sophia Cathedral.

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in February 2020 (mission report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/527/documents/>). The mission report includes recommendations regarding the legal framework, Kyiv City Master Plan, Management Plan,



buffer zone issues, protection of the visual integrity and property's settings, reconstructive interventions and management issues.

The State Party has submitted an enhanced draft of the Management Plan, 2019 building regulations, 2019 Decree regarding the "Supervisory Board of a World Heritage site", Saint-Sophia Planned Restoration, and the Long-term Program for Lower Lavra.

In 2019-2021, the State Party submitted project proposals in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS. The World Heritage Centre also received and referred to the State Party some concerns expressed by civil society about the state of conservation of the property, in conformity with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

In December 2020, the State Party organized, under the patronage of the World Heritage Centre, an international scientific and practical online conference "World Heritage Sites: Sustainable Development Practices for Urban Heritage" to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party continues to implement previous Committee decisions and recommendations of Reactive Monitoring missions.

Recent amendments to the Cultural Heritage Law include a process for reporting on large-scale restoration and development projects in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The 2020 mission concluded that the general state of conservation of the property is satisfactory. No additional threats to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property were observed, and some improvement was noted. The mission reported progress in developing and coordinating planning tools and development strategies, but recommended that the effectiveness of the recent amendments to the legal framework should be assessed, emphasizing that protection of the attributes which contribute to OUV and to the setting of the property, require greater priority. The mission report provides recommendations regarding protection of the skyline, visual fields and vistas, and preparation of a comprehensive inventory of tall buildings for the moratorium on Urban Development. It is recommended that the Committee endorse the recommendations of the 2020 mission.

The pending finalization of the Kyiv City Master Plan is noted. As recommended by the 2020 mission, the "Historical and Architectural Key Plan of Kyiv" should be finalized urgently and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to adoption. Strict monitoring of the application of the new zone-by-zone protection regime is required, and the State Party should be requested to submit a progress report on its implementation. Furthermore, it is recommended to request the establishment of an efficient system to protect from any visual impact on the skyline, the visual fields and vistas from the most characteristic viewpoints and to incorporate this system to the urban regulation documents, such as Kyiv City Master Plan, updated "Historical and Architectural Key Plan of Kyiv" and the Zoning Plan of Kyiv Central Area. The Zoning Plan should include specific requirements on the protection of the property's setting for all other "district" and "landscape protection" areas.

The unified buffer zone has been defined and a minor boundary modification request has been submitted for consideration by the Committee (see Document WHC/21/44.COM/8). The different levels and regimes of protection for the buffer zone should become operational as soon as possible and their implementation should be strictly enforced and monitored.

The new draft Management Plan is nearing completion, with the benefit of ICOMOS Advisory assistance implemented for the initial stages of its preparation, and draft sections have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the complete version of the Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to formal adoption.

The State Party has progressed in defining appropriate procedures for creation of a "Supervisory Board of a World Heritage site", which should now be appointed urgently. Following the change of the name of the property in 2019, and in accordance with the 2020 mission findings, the State Party should align the new name spelling with all relevant administrative documents.

It is also recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to maintain the current moratorium on Urban Development and to continue submitting to the World Heritage Centre, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, all projects planned within the framework of the Kyiv City Master Plan Concept, reviewed through a comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment

(HIA), prepared in accordance with the ICOMOS 2011 Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, including reference to 3D visual simulations so that the effects of the proposed developments on the OUV (including integrity and authenticity) of the property can be properly understood and considered.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.59**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.92**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to implement previous Committee decisions, and requests the State Party to finalize and submit the new Management Plan for the property to the World Heritage Centre, for revision by the Advisory Bodies, prior to formal adoption, by **1 February 2022**;
4. Also requests the State Party to maintain the moratorium on Urban Development until the urban planning documentation has been adopted, and control and monitoring is fully in place;
5. Endorses the 2020 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, and further requests the State Party to implement them, and in particular to:
  - a) *Align the name spelling in all relevant documents following the change of the name of the property and establish, as a matter of urgency, the proposed Supervisory Board for the property,*
  - b) *Introduce strict monitoring of the application of the new zone-by-zone protection regime and submit a progress report on its implementation,*
  - c) *Assess the effectiveness of the amendment of the legal framework in prioritizing the protection of attributes, which contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the setting of the property,*
  - d) *Establish an efficient system to protect from any visual impact on the skyline, the visual fields and vistas from the most characteristic viewpoints and introduce this system in the urban regulation documents, such as Kyiv City Master Plan, updated “Historical and Architectural Key Plan of Kyiv” and the Zoning Plan of Kyiv Central Area,*
  - e) *Finalize “Historical and Architectural Key Plan of Kyiv” and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review, prior to its adoption,*
  - f) *Include in the Zoning Plans of the Kyiv City Master Plan specific requirement on protection of the property’s setting for all other “district” and “landscape protection” areas,*
  - g) *Establish a comprehensive inventory of tall buildings, including all existing high-rise buildings, as well as the already-issued building permissions related to tall building projects;*
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to undertake an Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for developments within the property and its buffer zone as a timely and appropriate method of assessing the multiple and cumulative impacts of planned developments, taking into account potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties, including reference

to 3D visual simulations, prior to allowing any developments to take place; and encourages the State Party to continue to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, detailed information on any proposed development projects within the property, its buffer zone and setting, which may impact the OUV of the property, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to any decisions being taken that could be difficult to reverse;

7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## **60. Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1215)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2006

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

October 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2015: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Resumption of mining activities
- Inappropriate developments (*note that the previously raised issue of the new supermarket built at Hayle Harbour has since been resolved*)
- Potential impact of new development projects
- Management and institutional factors / Improvements to the planning tools and approval processes not yet completed and implemented
- Social/cultural uses of heritage

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party submitted reports on 4 February 2020 and on 15 February 2021, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1215/documents/>, and subsequently provided information and updates on ongoing projects. Information regarding several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions are summarised as follows:

- The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), an enforceable planning tool adopted by all three Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in May 2017, provides enhanced measures to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), which have been upheld in planning decisions and court

appeals. Planning processes and timeframes have been adjusted to facilitate input from the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. Planning Performance Agreements have been negotiated with developers at South and North Quays, and Hayle Harbour. The SPD has been complemented by training and online resources. Additional guidance has been provided for neighbourhood development planning within and adjacent to the property. A planning webinar in April 2020, including representatives from the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, outlined the operation of the National Planning Policy Framework, local plans, and management plan policies;

- The Management Plan for the property has been reviewed and updated to align it with updates to the *Operational Guidelines* and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and to address climate change. The updated archaeological study for South Crofty Mine has been submitted, and the proposed treatment of the boundary will be advised to the World Heritage Centre, once it is determined;
- Proposals at Hayle Harbour have benefitted from improved decision-making processes and extended timescales, addressing input from Historic England, the Committee, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, and have been informed by Heritage Impact Assessments.
- Liaison with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS continues regarding the North Quay Phase 2 projects as well as a proposed rum maturation facility, initially proposed within the property but now to be re-located to avoid harm to the property's OUV;
- Proposals, which are considered by the State Party not to have an impact on the OUV, were and will be managed through the UK planning processes, and are not notified under Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- The implementation of the recommendations of the 2015 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission and Decision **41 COM 7B.54** have improved the state of conservation of the property and strengthened measures for its long-term protection and management. The State Party is strongly of the view that the property is not at risk.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The improved planning processes and arrangements for the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS to assist the State Party in revising and mitigating potential harmful design elements and improving outcomes for project applications are acknowledged. This collaboration has included further technical reviews and teleconferences, with resolution reached for the South Quay and ongoing liaison regarding North Quay Phase 2. It remains important that the State Party and its agencies continue to allow time within the relevant statutory processes to receive and consider advice and to adjust proposed projects accordingly.

The Supplementary Planning Document, Planning Performance Agreements and neighbourhood development plans have been shown to work within the framework of the UK planning system to protect OUV, but the role of both Historic England and the World Heritage Site Planning Officer also remain vital in providing advice related to planning applications that may affect the property. The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS welcomed the invitation to participate in the April 2020 seminar which canvassed a wide range of statutory documents and processes. The update to the Management Plan for the property is also welcome. Notwithstanding this progress, it remains important that significant changes to statutory documents and planning applications which may affect the OUV of the property are appropriately selected and referred to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, rather than being addressed only through the UK planning process.

The Committee should confirm its ongoing interest in proposals for the South Crofty Mine, including forthcoming details of the boundary treatment and planning. Concerning the North Quay Phase 2 projects, the latest revised proposals present some changes in response to comments provided on earlier schemes but should not be approved in their present form as further refinement is required to avoid unacceptable impacts on the OUV of the Hayle Harbour component of the World Heritage property. Concerns which have been consistently conveyed through multiple ICOMOS technical reviews and direct meetings with the proponents about the Eastern Gateway, Hill Top and East Quay projects are yet to be adequately addressed.

Having regard to Decision **43 COM 7B.93**, it would be appropriate for the Committee to acknowledge that the State Party has acted to address a number of significant concerns about approval processes and consultation timeframes and that, although some significant residual concerns remain about specific projects, there has been significant progress in the implementation of past mission recommendations

and Committee Decisions. There is therefore no current ascertained nor potential danger to the property in terms of Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.60**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.93**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the significant progress of the State Party in:
  - a) *applying the Supplementary Planning Document, Planning Performance Agreements and neighbourhood development plans to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,*
  - b) *implementing the recommendations of the 2015 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission,*
  - c) *updating the Management Plan, in order to protect the OUV of the property,*
  - d) *establishing revised arrangements and adjusted timeframes for consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS regarding specific projects, including the proposed North Quay Phase 2 projects;*
4. Encourages the State Party to ensure that the advice of Historic England and the World Heritage Site Planning Officer continue to inform statutory decision making, so as to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on the property's OUV;
5. Requests the State Party to implement fully the recommendations of ICOMOS related to the North Quay Phase 2 projects in order to avoid the identified potential negative impacts of the project application to the OUV of the property;
6. Reiterates its previous request to the State Party to submit further information about proposals for the South Crofty Mine; in particular details of the boundary treatment and planning;
7. Notes its previous request that the State Party continue to ensure that, in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, details for significant changes to statutory documents and any new planning applications which may affect the OUV of the property are appropriately selected and are submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, before final decisions are taken;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

**61. Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 373bis)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 62. Quebrada de Humahuaca (Argentina) (C 1116)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription:

- Incomplete Management Plan
- Flooding risk
- Urbanization, Re-building/building extensions
- Intensification of Agricultural processes
- Antennae/Electric power lines
- Increasing tourist pressure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 30 January 2020 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1116/documents/>, in response to an official letter sent by the World Heritage Centre on 4 December 2019 that requested information on various conservation and management issues of concern. The report and its annexes provide the following information:

- The property's Management Plan adopted in 2008 has not been fully implemented. Most of the advances to date were towards the development of the Land Management and Environment Programme. This Programme was finalized in 2018 with the approval of the Provincial Law No. 6099, "Territorial Ordinance, land use and segmentation" and it addresses several components such as management, environmental and legal framework throughout the province;
- The Management Institute of Quebrada de Humahuaca has not been established as recommended in the 2008 Management Plan. As a result, the administration of the property is carried out by the Management and Administration Unit of Quebrada de Humahuaca (UGAQH), which falls within the Secretariat of Culture of Argentina;
- The development of an updated Management Plan for 2020-2028 is proposed, using a participatory methodology with the local communities, local and regional governments, as well as representatives of the national government with jurisdiction in the Quebrada de Humahuaca area;
- A Disaster Risk Management Plan is foreseen to be developed within the updated *Management Plan 2020-2028* framework, using as working basis the *Risk Assessment* carried out in December 2018 in the *Xth National Seminar of World Heritage Site Administrators* in Buenos Aires;

- The Tren Jujuy-La Quiaca railway project intends to reactivate the railway route from San Salvador de Jujuy to La Quiaca that halted its operations in 1993. The project also foresees the rehabilitation of original railway stations of the route, as well as the construction of new supporting infrastructure in order to respond to contemporary uses. An Environmental Impact Assessment of this project was undertaken and approved by the Ministry of Environment of the Jujuy province (Ministerio de Ambiente de la Provincia de Jujuy);
- Other current ongoing project proposals are the paving of the transit road “Paso de Jama”, which connects the Northwest of Argentina with the Pacific ports in the North of Chile, and a Water Basin Management project for the Rio Grande and its tributaries;
- The Land Management and Environment Programme, technical information on the segment *Jujuy-La Quiaca railway project* and several documents regarding legal framework of the property are all included in annex to the report.

**Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM**

The State Party has made significant advances in addressing the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription, including the incorporation of Quebrada de Humahuaca as part of the Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System and the preparation in 2008 of a Management Plan for the property. Taking into consideration that a segment of the property was inscribed as part of Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to consolidate coordination efforts between the management systems in place for both properties to ensure consistency in approaches and decision-making, so as to respect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of both properties.

Despite advances in the implementation of the 2008 Management Plan, such as the development of a Land Management and Environment Programme, a Water Basin Systematization Programme and some specific programmes of action, it is regrettable that the Management Plan has not been fully implemented and no Management Effectiveness Assessment has been put in place.

The State Party’s intention to develop an updated Management Plan for 2020-2028 is welcomed as a much-needed planning tool, which should include an updated sustainable tourism strategy, the development of a Disaster Risk Management Plan, and specific studies on the impact of tourism on the property.

It is noted with extreme concern that the Jujuy train railway project continues to be developed, and that no Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the project has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken but was not submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. The information submitted by the State Party indicates that the railway project aims to reactivate and refurbish the railway route, and the original railway station buildings. Furthermore, due to the railway’s inactivity and the impact that the tracks suffered from natural phenomena in recent years, the possibility of creating an alternative route to the current one is being considered, in order to avoid permanent risk to the railway infrastructure. As such, the State Party should provide further information on the project’s implementation, as well as a completed HIA, in line with ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment for Cultural World Heritage properties.

The planning of several other interventions in the property, such as the Water Basin Management project and the paving of the transit road “Paso de Jama”, all of which no further detailed information was provided regarding its implementation, and as no HIAs have been submitted for evaluation, it might also be of concern.

In view of the above, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the current state of conservation of the property and the effectiveness of management mechanisms and to evaluate the impact of planned and ongoing projects on the OUV of the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.62**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **27 COM 8C.17**, adopted at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003),
3. Regrets that until date the 2008 Management Plan has not been fully implemented;
4. Welcomes the State Party initiative to develop an updated Management Plan 2020-2028 and urges it to submit this Plan to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review as soon as possible;
5. Encourages the State Party to consolidate coordination efforts between the management systems in place for Qhapaq Ñan Andean Road System and Quebrada de Humahuaca, to ensure consistency in approaches and decision-making, so as to protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of both properties;
6. Acknowledges that the development of a Disaster Risk Management Plan is foreseen in the updated Management Plan and requests the State Party to submit it, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as feasible;
7. Notes with concern the advances in the implementation of the Jujuy – La Quiaca Train Project and also urges the State Party to develop a Heritage Impact Assessment, in line with ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessment for Cultural World Heritage properties, of the project before any further construction is carried out, and also requests the State Party to submit it as soon as possible along with the Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken with regard to the Jujuy Train railway project, both for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Notes that construction work is foreseen at the Rio Grande and its affluents as part of the Water Basin Management project and reminds the State Party that such projects must be submitted for review of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before works commence or any irreversible decision is made;
9. Further requests the State Party to invite an ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, in order to assess its current state of conservation and the effectiveness of management mechanisms, and to evaluate the impact of the planned and ongoing projects on the OUV of the property;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.



### 63. Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture (Bolivia, Plurinational State of) (C 567rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1995-1995)

Total amount approved: USD 4,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 870,000 for the project "Preservation and Conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid" (UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage), finalized in 2018

Previous monitoring missions

August 2002: Experts Mission; November 2007: World Heritage Centre Preparatory mission; February-March 2009: World Heritage Centre Technical mission for the implementation of the JFIT project; November 2009: World Heritage Centre/UNESCO Quito Office Monitoring mission; November 2010: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2012: World Heritage Centre mission; April 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a management plan (issue resolved)
- Governance
- Lack of coordinated conservation policies and interventions between the national government and local stakeholders
- Impacts of tourism activities / visitor / recreation
- Legal framework
- Management systems / management plan
- Housing (urban high rise / urban sprawl)
- Lack of conservation policy

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report (in Spanish only), which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/567/documents/> and reports the following:

- The UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) cooperation in the project "Preservation and conservation of Tiwanaku and the Akapana Pyramid" has made essential contributions to addressing key issues of the conservation and management of the property, including the preparation of the Management Plan and Integral Conservation Plan (ICP), approved by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in November 2017 and December 2018 respectively; the creation of a conservation area, reinforced with laboratory equipment; tourism management; mapping of the property through remote sensing; improvement of the archives of the Archaeological, Anthropological and Administrative Research Centre of Tiwanaku (CIAAAT); and registry and catalogue systems;
- ICOMOS' comments on the Management Plan are being considered and the status of their implementation is described in detail;
- While the Management and Conservation Plans ensure the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, the State Party report clarifies that it is not within the competence of the CIAAAT, which is the management authority, to define the limits of the urban

and rural areas; this is the exclusive responsibility of the Municipality of Tiwanaku. The municipality had proposed to include the entire property within the urban area, but this was objected to by the 23 rural communities concerned and, to date, no agreement has been reached between the parties;

- Regulations have been agreed between the Municipality of Tiwanaku and the CIAAAT for the management and conservation of the buffer zone;
- The growth of the village of Tiwanaku is affecting the archaeological landscape. Once the zoning characteristics of the area have been defined, the buffer zone regulations need to be formalised by the municipality;
- The effects of climate change and the El Niño phenomena will be addressed in a Risk Management Plan that will be prepared in 2020;
- The main threats to the property are the urban expansion of the village of Tiwanaku, the lack of definition of the urban and rural zones, and constructions in the possible buffer zone extension due to lack of regulations.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

It is welcomed that the State Party is considering ICOMOS' recommendations regarding the 2017 Management Plan.

The December 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review of the ICP strongly supports the vision that it is essential to approach the property as part of a very extensive archaeological landscape (up to 650 hectares) and to address the conservation of the landscape, architecture, archaeological deposits, and artifacts, both within and outside the property, in an integrated manner. In order to strengthen the ICP, the State Party should be recommended to consider the advice of the Technical Review concerning ongoing archaeological condition assessment, the establishment of a cyclical maintenance programme for the property, and attention required for deposits outside the museum, among others.

It is noted that neither the State Party report nor the ICP address the previous request of the World Heritage Committee to give priority to efforts to guarantee the optimal state of conservation of the identified attributes that convey the property's OUV prior to pursuing any new archaeological projects. In this sense, the proposal in the ICP to undertake three new excavations as part of a communication strategy to showcase the extension to the archaeological area should be carefully and strategically re-considered.

The preparation of a Risk Management Plan in 2020 is welcomed, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as it becomes available.

It should be recalled that, for many years, the World Heritage Committee has been calling upon the State Party to expand the buffer zone of the property and to define the urban and rural zones with their specific regulations. It is of extreme concern that no progress has been made in any of these areas. The existing buffer zone of 100 metres around the three areas that make up the property has proven to be insufficient to prevent inappropriate constructions and intrusions. In addition, an assessment should be undertaken of the implications of the eventual designation of the property and its existing and/or proposed buffer zone as urban or rural zones. It is recommended that the Committee also request the State Party to clarify this as early as possible.

The continued urban expansion of the village of Tiwanaku and the absence of an appropriate buffer zone and regulations could be considered as a potential threat to the property's OUV. The Committee should therefore urge the State Party to formalize the buffer zone extension and regulations for the urban and rural zones, and to submit a formal minor boundary modification request, as per Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines.

It is welcomed that the CIAAAT collaborates intensively with the local authorities and communities in decision-making processes regarding planning, conservation and management. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue this effort.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.63**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.34**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit its report in one of the two working languages of the World Heritage Convention (French or English);
4. Welcomes the adoption of the Management Plan (2017) and the Integral Conservation Plan (ICP)(2018), and recommends that the State Party consider and implement ICOMOS' observations and advice regarding the ICP;
5. Recalls its earlier request to the State Party to give priority to efforts to guarantee the optimal state of conservation of the identified attributes that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) prior to pursuing any new archaeological projects, and requests the State Party to reconsider the opening of three new excavation zones as proposed in the ICP;
6. Also welcomes the preparation of the Risk Management Plan, and also requests the State Party to submit this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as it becomes available;
7. Expresses its serious concern that the State Party has not taken any action to expand the buffer zone as requested by the Committee at its previous sessions, and that the continued expansion of the village of Tiwanaku and inappropriate constructions and land use threaten the OUV of the property, and urges the State Party to:
  - a) Proceed urgently with the extension of the buffer zone and the submission of a formal Minor Boundary Modification request, as per Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines,
  - b) Define urban and rural zones and assess the implications of such designations on the conservation and management of the property and the buffer zone,
  - c) Take the corresponding regulatory measures to ensure the protection of the property's OUV and conditions of authenticity and integrity;
8. Further requests the State Party to reinforce its collaboration and communication with the local authorities and communities regarding the conservation and management of the property;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 64. Pampulha Modern Ensemble (Brazil) (C 1493)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1493/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1493/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (need to augment the Management Plan)
- Lack of implementation of the work set out in the Intervention Plan
- Need to strengthen the protection and planning controls of the 1st block of houses and the protection of the buffer zone

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1493/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1493/documents/>, and reports the following:

- Restoration of the Yacht Club and demolition of the annexed structures is delayed until ownership and management responsibility matters are resolved via ongoing negotiations between the city government and the Club;
- Access to the Ballroom has been improved by demolishing a freestanding control box and restoring the garden;
- Dino Barbieri Square underwent extensive intervention in 2015 and is intensely used by the local population in its present form. No further intervention has yet been undertaken. The *Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional* (IPHAN), the Burle Marx Unit and national experts have the knowledge necessary for the restoration project. An extensive process of consultation is proposed between IPHAN, the Burle Marx Unit, local environmental agencies and the local population to arrive at a restoration plan;
- Actions to improve the water quality of Pampulha Lake include treatment with bioremediation and phosphorus sequestration technologies to maintain a minimum water quality until structural sources of pollution have been addressed. 96% of the surrounding neighbourhoods are covered by sewage systems. Since 2013, great volumes of sediment and solid waste have been removed. Funding for these actions has been secured for the coming years. Water quality is monitored continuously along with environmental education programmes and social mobilization services;
- The Belo Horizonte Master Plan adopted in June 2019, establishes a Special Guidelines Area of Pampulha. In this framework, different buffer zone subzones may be subject to different levels of control and intervention from heritage agencies according to their contribution to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Modifications to the buffer zone delimitation may be proposed;

- Tourism and appropriation by local communities are integrated parts of the property's management as shown in a series of concrete actions by the Belo Horizonte tourism authorities and the implementation of an education and communication programme;
- The Pampulha Modern Ensemble Management Committee is developing building guidelines for interventions in traditional neighbourhoods. A set of indicators has been established in four areas: public acknowledgment of the property, conditions of fruition or enjoyment of the elements that make up the property (environment and infrastructure), conservation status of monuments, and threats to the landscape;
- Other activities include restoration of San Francisco Church and Pampulha Art Museum, creation of a species nursery garden for the restoration and maintenance of the Burle Marx gardens, management of Capybaras living on the shores of the lake, remodelling of bicycle lane around the lake, lighting, tools for management and tourism development and educational activities.
- A workshop was organized in May 2019 in Belo Horizonte with the participation of various stakeholders aiming at improvements on tourist management and local development of the property.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party should be commended for the multiple actions undertaken for the conservation and management of the property.

However, it is a matter of serious concern that no progress has been made in the preparation of the intervention in the Yacht Club and the demolition of the annexed structures, as foreseen in the Intervention Plan and to which the State Party committed itself at the time of the inscription of the property on the World Heritage List.

Regarding Dino Barbieri Square, it is understood that this is a complex issue that requires careful planning and communication with the local population. The participation of the IPHAN Burle Marx Unit is highly welcomed as is the creation of a nursery garden for species that will be required in the restoration process. It is appropriate to recall the conclusion of the April 2018 ICOMOS Technical Review which advised to evaluate the feasibility of recovering some of the features that were part of the original Burle Marx project (1941-1945) and modified during the construction phase (end of the 1940s). Equally, it is important to recall the recommendation that the project's implementation be accompanied by a good communication strategy that explains the reasons for re-designing the square in order to complete the ensemble of landscape and buildings and strengthen the authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage property.

It may be expected that the actions to improve the water quality of the Pampulha Lake, and the assurances that these will continue over the coming years, will have positive effects in the mid- and long-term. The connection to the sewage system of the last houses and informal settlements should be pursued vigorously in order to achieve the desired water quality.

The impact of the recently-adopted Belo Horizonte Master Plan on the planning and management of the World Heritage property and its buffer zones should be identified. The workshop of May 2019 in which the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach was applied provided relevant elements for the identification of attributes and the strengthening of the management of the property and its buffer zone. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible of the outcome of this analysis and the potential implications for the management of the property.

Important progress has been made in the management of the property with the participation of local communities, educational and environmental activities, and the restoration of some of the emblematic buildings, notably the San Francisco church and the intervention in the Ballroom. However, it is noted with concern that other elements of the Intervention Plan are encountering delays and that no clear timelines have been set for their completion. This particularly refers to the Yacht Club and Dino Barbieri Square as well as the Strategic Management Plan including an Integrated Sustainable Tourism Development Plan.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.64**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.35**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the actions taken by the State Party for the conservation and management of the property;
4. Strongly recalls that the Intervention Plan and recommendations adopted at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List should be implemented in their entirety in order to optimise the levels of the integrity and authenticity of the total ensemble and each of its components, and urges the State Party to take the necessary decisions for their implementation and set a timetable for their completion;
5. Also urges the State Party to accelerate the consultation and decision-making processes on the Yacht Club and Dino Barbieri Square, and requests the State Party to develop an appropriate communication strategy for the local population, with regard to the interventions of the Dino Barbieri Square and inform the World Heritage Centre on the results of these processes and submit detailed documentation on the Yacht Club projects;
6. Acknowledges the progress made in the improvement and monitoring of the quality of the water of the Pampulha Lake, and recommends that the State Party continue these efforts;
7. Takes note of the adoption of the Belo Horizonte Master Plan approved in June 2019, and also recommends that the State Party proceed with the analysis of its impact on the protection and management of the World Heritage property and its buffer zone;
8. Also requests the State Party to progress with developing a Strategic Management Plan, considering the entire set of recommendations adopted at the time of inscription, including an integrated Sustainable Tourism Development Plan, that will include measures to strengthen protection and planning controls in the property and its buffer zone, and to continue the participatory and inter-agency process in the management of the property and the preparation of building guidelines for specific neighbourhoods;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, an updated report on the implementation of the above for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

## 65. Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís (Costa Rica) (C 1453)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 17,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 95,260 for the project “Engaging youth from local communities and indigenous peoples in participatory management and conservation of the *Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís*” (German Foreign Office), currently under implementation

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance
- Interpretative and visitation facilities (provide visitor interpretation and future accessibility to components not yet open to the public)
- Human resources (guardians and managers)
- Housing (future urban development)
- Water infrastructure (discussion on the construction of a hydropower dam)
- Air transport infrastructure
- Financial resources
- Management systems/ management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2018, the State Party submitted an intermediate report in response to Decision **42 COM 7B.36** and on 4 December 2019, a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1453/documents>, providing the following information:

- The establishment of joint management mechanisms with local communities is progressing, including through a new two-year project with the University of Costa Rica, but will require additional time, given inherent administrative and legal challenges. Specific initiatives are underway with the Curré and Boruca indigenous communities to strengthen ties with the property and to provide support for their own conservation and museum initiatives;
- There are many educational and outreach initiatives aiming to improve inter-institutional links between the property and local communities and organizations. Several are focused on youth engagement in heritage protection, including a new participatory project financed by the Government of Germany;
- Improvements to interpretation of the four archaeological sites were completed, including the installation of new signage and the expansion of the Visitor Centre at Finca 6, which provides additional exhibition and educational spaces;
- The proposed specific regulation for the buffer zones presented to the Osa Municipal Council will require further consultation with landowners, and remains under legal review since 2018;

- Significant advances were made in the development of the Risk and Disaster Management Plan for the property, which will be finalized and presented for formal approval in 2020;
- Hiring of additional staff remains restricted due to national policies;
- A new management unit is being created under the General Direction of the National Museum of Costa Rica to define the property's optimal management structure;
- The Southern International Airport project remains in the feasibility stage and a decision has not been taken regarding its future; the completion of a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is pending such decision. Meanwhile, the government is investing in upgrading the existing regional airport Palmar Sur located in the Diquís delta;
- The Diquís hydroelectric project was indefinitely cancelled by the responsible authorities in November 2018, and all activity related to the project has been suspended;
- A High-Level Commission and interinstitutional technical team were created by Presidential Decree in 2018 to ensure the integral management of the property, and have since held several meetings;
- A detailed timeline outlines the status of relevant actions, responsible institutions and expected deadlines for completion of pending conservation and management issues. All are expected to be finalized by 2020 and are included as part of the property's updated Management Plan;
- Archaeological research and conservation works on the stone spheres continue, and benefit from a cooperation program with Mexico and the involvement of universities in both countries.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The two comprehensive reports submitted since the last Committee Decision clearly demonstrate the State Party's commitment to address the pending conservation and management challenges of the property in a thorough and timely manner.

The State Party should be encouraged to continue its efforts to establish joint management mechanisms with local and indigenous communities. Meanwhile, the many diverse and dynamic educational and outreach activities focused on strengthening links with local and indigenous communities and youth are commendable. Ongoing research and conservation works have also positively contributed to the sites' preservation and are shared with local communities and students through regular visits. Combined with the recent improvements to visitation facilities and experience, including with new signage, and ongoing conservation efforts in the four archaeological sites, the State Party has shown remarkable progress in establishing the property as a reference for cultural heritage recognition and protection in Costa Rica.

Nevertheless, continued efforts will be needed to:

- Finalize and implement a suitable regulatory plan for the buffer zones, which continues to experience delays;
- Finalize the Risk and Disaster Management Plan; and
- Strengthen the human and financial resources dedicated to the property's long-term conservation and management.

In this regard, the efforts to formally establish a consolidated and multidisciplinary management unit under the General Direction of the National Museum of Costa Rica is a welcome initiative. Likewise, the creation of a High-Level Commission and interinstitutional team for the property is much appreciated, as it commits relevant institutions at the highest level to ensure its protection.

Considering that the Southern International Airport project has been on hold for several years and an HIA still pending, and that the Diquís hydroelectric project has been indefinitely cancelled, it will be important for the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the future of these projects, and submit to the World Heritage Centre any relevant documentation and studies for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies. Meanwhile, given the close proximity of the Palmar Sur regional airport to three of the four archaeological sites in the Diquís delta, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide additional information on the nature and scale of the upgrades planned, in order to assess any potential impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).



**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.65**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.36**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the ongoing efforts by the State Party in developing participatory management mechanisms with local communities and indigenous groups, and encourages the continuation of these initiatives;
4. Commends the State Party on the numerous initiatives related to education and outreach, particularly those related to local and indigenous communities and youth, as an important aspect of the sustainable conservation of the property and awareness-raising on cultural heritage in Costa Rica more broadly;
5. Also commends the State Party on the important improvements to the property's interpretation, including new signage installations and the expansion of the Visitor Centre, as important steps towards improving visitor experience and appreciation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
6. Takes note that the approval of buffer zone regulations remains pending with the Osa Municipal Council, that the Risk and Disaster Management Plan is being finalized and that the increase of human and financial resources remains a significant challenge and, therefore, requests the State Party to finalize these pending issues in 2020 as indicated in its report and to notify the World Heritage Centre as soon as completed;
7. Takes note with appreciation of the efforts to formally establish a consolidated and multidisciplinary management unit for the property under the General Direction of the National Museum of Costa Rica, and of the establishment of a High-Level Commission to ensure its adequate protection;
8. Also takes note that there has been no decision taken for several years with regard to the feasibility of the Southern International Airport project, and that a Heritage Impact Assessment will be conducted if the project is to move forward,
9. Further takes note that the Diquis hydroelectric project has been indefinitely suspended by the responsible authorities and that all works related to the project have been halted;
10. Also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed about any changes in the status of these two projects, and to submit any relevant documentation and studies undertaken, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
11. Further requests the State Party to provide further information on the nature and scale of the upgrades planned for the Palmar Sur regional airport located in close proximity to three of the property's archaeological sites, in order to determine any possible impacts on the OUV, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
12. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 66. Colonial City of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) (C 526)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1990-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 82,207

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1993, 1995, 1998: Monitoring missions; August 2001: ICOMOS Monitoring mission; 2002: World Heritage Centre mission; December 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2009: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2014: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (undefined and unregulated buffer zone leading to urban development pressure and inadequate control of land use)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Vulnerability to earthquakes and hurricanes
- Deterioration of historic structures derived from natural and social factors (including environmental pollution and lack of sensitization of local residents)
- Housing (urban development project (Sansouci))
- Land conversion
- Management systems/ management plan
- Society's valuing of heritage
- Underground transport infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2018, the State Party submitted a report responding to Decision **42 COM 7B.37** for which a Technical Review was issued in September 2019.

On 2 December 2019, a complementary state of conservation report was submitted in response to the previous Committee Decision regarding programmes with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the strategic plan to address the recommendations of the 2014 ICOMOS Advisory mission. This report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/526/documents/>, providing information on the following:

- A loan agreement with the IDB for the second phase of the *Integral Programme for Tourism and Urban Development of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo*, is still pending approval by the National Congress. This will complement the previous *Programme for Tourism Development in the Colonial City of Santo Domingo* (PFTCCSD), in implementation since 2017;
- All projects at the property are being supervised by the *Dirección Nacional de Patrimonio Monumental* (DNPM), under the Ministry of Culture. The development of the *Comprehensive Revitalisation Strategic Plan of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo* is being finalized, and reviewed. Additional normative guidelines are being developed for the sectors of San Carlos and Villa Francisca, located in the buffer zone; the definition and extension of the buffer zone is scheduled for the 2020-2022 period;

- New legislation, including a draft Law for the Protection, Safeguarding and Development of Cultural Heritage, and a Patronage Law to promote public-private partnerships, have been developed;
- There is now a clear definition of roles of government agencies (Ministry of Culture, City Council of the National District and Ministry of Tourism), through the establishment of a Strategic Committee, composed by the Ministers of Culture and Tourism, the Mayor of the National District and three representatives from each agency. A Consultative Committee has also been created, composed of representatives from civil society, academia, and technical advisory bodies. The members are in the process of defining the operational protocol for the Committee's functions;
- Tourism continues to rise in Santo Domingo with an increase of 3% in tourism demand and 11% in hotel occupancy compared to the same period the previous year. A completed analysis on Tourist Carrying Capacity and Reorientation Towards Sustainable Tourism in the Colonial City was submitted in this regard;
- Restoration, and rehabilitation actions were undertaken in 2018-2019 within the Colonial City, as well as a technical assessment in the aftermath of the collapse of the Hotel Francés, a technical analysis of the ruins of the monastery of San Francisco and a structural analysis of the Church of Santa Bárbara with possible reinforcement proposals;
- The State Party has undertaken several actions to assess and minimize negative effects of any projects in the property, including the Subway Line 6, which is not foreseen in the next 10 years.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

ICOMOS undertook a Technical Review of the State Party's November 2018 progress report, which recalled the urgency of implementing actions with regard to institutional and legal frameworks, the approval and implementation of the Master Plan for the Integral Revitalization of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo, and particularly the definition and formal submission of the buffer zone.

A number of initiatives have been undertaken by the State Party, including the development of stronger frameworks for the conservation and management of the property, and the proposal for a loan from the IDB to implement the second phase of the Integral Programme for Tourism and Urban Development of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo.

Regarding the legal framework and the management system, specific legislation has been adopted, as well as the definition of roles for the various government agencies involved in the city's management. A management structure has been defined, with the creation of a Strategic Committee and a Consultative Committee. These bodies are a good start, although there is still need for a clear operational protocol related to decision-making. The effectiveness of these measures will need to be assessed particularly in the framework of the second IDB-funded project.

The impact of tourism on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is still unclear, and remains a source of concern. The State Party reports an increase in visitor numbers, but there is also mention that the thresholds determined for the property are far from being exceeded. It is unclear how these numbers have been calculated, or what the impact of increasing visitation will have on the property's protection. A positive initiative related to tourism is the ongoing development of a plan to adopt a certification process to turn Santo Domingo into a sustainable destination; however, more information would be required to understand the implications of this initiative. It is important to bear in mind that the Covid-19 pandemic may change the approach to tourism at the site.

The vulnerability of the property to earthquakes and hurricanes is not addressed by the State Party in its report. Due to the increasing threat of these natural phenomena to the OUV of the property, the development of a Disaster Risk Management Plan will be pertinent.

There was only a structural analysis done of the Hotel Francés that partially collapsed in 2015. Studies were undertaken to document the state of the building, and to assess the requirements for new foundations. The conclusions are, however, not clear for understanding whether the results are based on calculations for modern construction, or for traditional masonry. There is also no description of how the reconstruction is planned.

The State Party mentions that important rehabilitation and maintenance actions have been carried out in 2018-2019, but there are no indications of what these actions were, how they were undertaken, nor were they previously submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Two specific diagnoses are presented for

the ruins of San Francisco and for the Santa Bárbara Church. In the first case, although the state of conservation is documented, some of the recommendations made by a foreign consulting firm are worrying, particularly with the proposal to either demolish a damaged wall, or to reinforce it. In the case of Santa Bárbara Church, there is also insufficient information to evaluate the proposed conservation and restoration treatments. Regarding urban development and underground infrastructure projects, it should be acknowledged that the State Party notifies that the Subway Line 6 project is not foreseen in the next 10 years.

It remains of outmost concern that there is no significant progress in the definition of the buffer zone and the formal submission of a Minor Boundary Modification request to the World Heritage Centre, although it is noted that the State Party reports that no further projects have been developed in the Sansouci project in the eastern part of the proposed buffer zone.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.66**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.37**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Takes note of the progress made by the State Party in responding to requests by the Committee regarding the legal and management framework, particularly by defining clear roles for government agencies, and reinforcing the Dirección Nacional de Patrimonio Monumental (DNPM);*
4. *Also takes note of the completion of the new Comprehensive Revitalisation Strategic Plan of the Colonial City of Santo Domingo and requests the State Party to ensure its approval and submission to the World Heritage Centre for final review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as it is available;*
5. *Acknowledges the efforts made by the State Party to obtain a certification for sustainable tourism, and also requests it to continue monitoring the increase in visitation, taking into account the carrying capacity of the property and the protection of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
6. *Regrets that the State Party has not yet submitted a Minor Boundary Modification as per Paragraphs 162-164 of the Operational Guidelines for the definition of the buffer zone as previously requested by the World Heritage Committee, and urges the State Party to finalize the proposal as soon as possible;*
7. *Further takes note of the photogrammetric survey and topographical studies undertaken in the aftermath of the partial collapse of the Hotel Francés, and further requests the State Party to provide additional clarifications regarding the proposed reconstruction project;*
8. *Welcomes the notification by the State Party that the construction of the Subway Line 6 is not foreseen in the next ten years, and reminds it, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to inform and submit the necessary technical information to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before further decisions are taken;*
9. *Requests furthermore that additional information regarding the conservation methods used at historic buildings within the property, as well as the project proposals for the*

*Convent of San Francisco and for the Santa Bárbara Church, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*

10. *Expresses its concern that no Disaster Risk Management Plan has been developed to address the risks posed by earthquakes and hurricanes, and requests moreover the State Party to develop such plan and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **67. City of Quito (Ecuador) (C 2)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 16 (from 1981-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 391,800

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 for the project "Risk Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Quito", implemented from 2016-2018 (UNESCO/Spanish Funds-in-Trust)

### Previous monitoring missions

November 1988: expert mission; March 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission; December 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Urban development pressures affecting the authenticity of the property
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (works in the Tower of the Complex of the *Compañía de Jesús*) (issue resolved)
- Management system/plan (weaknesses in the decision-making mechanisms regarding conservation)
- Transportation infrastructure (construction of metro, including underground station)
- Housing

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/>

### Current conservation issues

On 25 November 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2/documents/>, which includes technical annexes on management and conservation issues, as well as on the monitoring and construction of the first Quito metro line and its station at San Francisco Square, as follows:

- The preparation of the *Partial Plan for the Comprehensive Development of the Historical Centre of Quito* has continued over the past years and the first two phases (diagnosis and proposal development) were concluded and reported to the Committee at its 42nd session. The third phase corresponds to the new legal framework that legalizes the Partial Plan and will allow its implementation. The corresponding draft revision of Ordinance 260 (in force since 2008) has been prepared. However, the new municipal administration that took office in May 2019 is in the process of drawing up the new *Territorial Planning and Development Plan for the Metropolitan District of the City of Quito 2019-2023* with which the Partial Plan needs to be harmonized. Any changes that may occur to the Partial Plan during this process will be communicated to the World Heritage Centre;
- The *Disaster Risk Management Plan for the Core Area of the Historical Centre of Quito* has been developed. Risk management will now focus on an area of 60 blocks in the historical centre in which priority is given to monumental buildings of civil and religious architecture and public spaces. In a second stage, the whole area of the historical centre will be considered, with emphasis on housing and services in historical structures. A rental housing programme has been elaborated for municipal property premises in the Historic Centre;
- Regarding the construction of the metro line and the station at San Francisco Square, it is reported that construction was completed in January 2019. ICOMOS participated in the monitoring process through the provision of technical advice. Reports of vibration monitoring and surface settlements corroborated that there are no abnormalities or ground movement that could affect the stability of surrounding buildings, and that the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) has not been affected;
- The municipal authorities are studying the regulation of uses and functions in buildings and public spaces at each metro station, especially at San Francisco Square, in anticipation of the operation of the metro and its possible impact on pedestrian flows, uses and functions.

The report also includes a description of the damage caused by civil unrest in October 2019 that mainly affected the pavements of streets and public spaces and resulted in graffiti on the buildings' walls. Immediately after the events, the local and national authorities, and the local population undertook the necessary cleaning and restoration works.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

It is recalled that over the past five years, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS have intensively accompanied developments in Quito, as is testified by two mission reports since 2013 and six technical reviews since January 2015. The main areas of attention were the preparation of a Management Plan for the historical centre, and the construction of a metro line through the historical centre and of a metro station at San Francisco Square.

It is regrettable that the Management Plan (referred to as the "Partial Plan for the Comprehensive Development of the Historical Centre of Quito"), which has been under preparation for many years, has not yet been formally approved. However, it is welcomed that a draft Partial Plan has been prepared. It is noted that the State Party submitted extensive legal advice on the revision of Ordinance 260 that will provide the legal framework for the implementation of the Partial Plan. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the final draft of the revision of Ordinance 260 as soon as possible. ICOMOS will then be able to undertake an integrated technical review of the Partial Plan and the revision of Ordinance 260 for transmission to the State Party.

The Disaster Risk Management Plan and rental housing strategies are welcome. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue these lines of action and to consider the recommendations of the ICOMOS technical review.

Regarding the location of the metro station at San Francisco Square, no follow-up was given to the recommendation of the World Heritage Committee to further explore alternative locations. Its construction was concluded in December 2017. It is recommended that the Committee also request the State Party to submit the regulations of uses and functions in the buildings and public spaces at San Francisco Square to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they become available.

The construction of the metro tunnel was completed in January 2019. While it should be acknowledged that no incident took place during and after construction, and that the OUV of the property was not affected, it would have been recommendable to systematically implement the monitoring plan and

ICOMOS' recommendations regarding inclinometers that extend to approximately 2 times the depth of excavation to establish fixity, amongst others.

Regarding the incidents that occurred during the civil unrest in 2019, it is noted that the damage was quickly mitigated and repaired in a participatory manner with the local population and the national and local authorities.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.67**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.38**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Welcomes the advances in the preparation of the Partial Plan for the Comprehensive Development of the Historical Centre of Quito, but expresses its regret that to date no formal Management Plan for the property has been approved, and urges the State Party to:*
  - a) *Continue the harmonization process of the Partial Plan and the Territorial Planning and Development Plan for the Metropolitan District of the City of Quito 2019-2023,*
  - b) *Integrate any changes that may occur during this process into the final version of the Partial Plan and submit this plan, together with the final draft of the revision of Ordinance 260, which provides the legal framework for its implementation, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Also welcomes the strategy for the housing programme for rental in historical buildings, and the Disaster Risk Management Plan for the Core Area of the Historical Centre of Quito, and requests the State Party to consider the recommendations of the ICOMOS technical review;*
5. *Notes that the construction of the metro station at San Francisco Square and the metro tunnel under the World Heritage property has been concluded, and also urges the State Party to:*
  - a) *Continue monitoring and mitigation programmes,*
  - b) *Develop a programme to assess, once the metro line is in operation, the station's impact on pedestrian flows and the uses and functions of the square and its surrounding buildings;*
6. *Congratulates the State Party for its swift and participatory response to the damages caused by civil unrest in 2019;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## 68. National History Park – Citadel, Sans Souci, Ramiers (Haiti) (C 180)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1982-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 246,110

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 14,780 for the July 2010 Technical Mission partially funded by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage

Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: UNESCO Havana Office Technical Visit; July 2010: Joint Expert Technical mission; March 2011: UNESCO Preparatory mission for Haiti Donor's Conference; January 2012: World Heritage Centre Technical mission; March 2012: Multidisciplinary Technical mission; May 2013: ICOMOS mission; May 2013: Multidisciplinary Technical mission; July 2013: Technical Assistance mission World Heritage Centre / ICOMOS; February 2015: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Technical Assistance mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (lack of conservation, management and risk preparedness plans)
- Water damage (issue resolved)
- Vandalism (issue resolved)
- Earthquake (vulnerability)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/>

Current conservation issues

On 15 March 2019, the State Party submitted documentation on the improvement of the section of the RN003 road that crosses through the Park, including a review of an alternative route outside the Park, as well as the Terms of Reference of an Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessment (EIAs and HIAs) of the upgrading of the existing road. Subsequently, on 30 March 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/180/documents/> and responds to Decision **42 COM 7B.39** as follows:

- The definition of the buffer zone and the finalization of the conservation and management plans are the subject of technical assistance to be provided by the UNESCO Office in Port-au-Prince in the framework of a World Bank-funded project. UNESCO is presently in the process of recruiting the consultants. A mission to the Park was foreseen in March 2020 and the documents were to have been finalized by August 2020 (Note: documents not yet finalized);
- The Provisional Management Authority (*l'Autorité Gestion Provisoire du Parc National Historique Citadelle Sans Souci Ramiers* AGP) has established an operational structure in the Park with adequate staffing;
- A programme of conservation activities was carried out during 2018-2019 including the emergency repair of damage caused by a hurricane in August 2019;



- Regarding the improvement of the RN003 road, the State Party has studied only one alternative and concluded that the only viable option is the upgrading of the existing road through the Park that constitutes the property. This 5.8 kilometre section of the road will be defined as a “Park Road” and new Terms of Reference have been drawn up;
- In September 2019, the State Party invited an Advisory mission composed of representatives of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, the European Union and State Party institutions to assess alternatives and advise on the Terms of Reference of the road upgrading. This mission ultimately had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- The State Party also requested in this report the advice of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on how the upgrading of the road across the park, with two lanes of 3.5 metres each, 2 metres of verges and water drainage infrastructure, could be executed according to established norms and respect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Regarding the improvement of the secondary road that leads from the RN003 road to the Choiseul parking area, the State Party reports that this would provide a second access for cars, horses and pedestrians similar to the road from Milot to Choiseul. The Institute for the Preservation of National Heritage (ISPAN) is in the process of preparing a technical dossier on this matter.

On 12 April 2020, a fire broke out at the Church of the Milot. An emergency mission implemented by ISPAN visited the property the next day and a report was submitted to the World Heritage Centre. The Heritage Emergency Fund of UNESCO financed the production of key architectural documentation of the Milot Church prior to the fire, including raw pictures and 3D model screenshots, to help the national authorities to analyze the extent of the damage and to inform and guide the future rehabilitation process.

On 4 March 2021, the State Party submitted the final report of the EIA and the HIA of the section of the RN003 through the property. Their main conclusion is that rehabilitation of the section of the RN003 through the park constitutes a particular environmental/landscaping challenge for the property but at the same time an opportunity to re-define the development model and the strategic vision that should guide the management plan of the property.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The report of the ISPAN emergency mission to the Church of the Milot provides a rapid assessment of the damage and of the immediate and urgent measures to be undertaken to secure the surviving structures of the church. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit updated documentation on the implementation of the measures included in the report and on whether tests have been carried out to verify the structural stability of the surviving structures, particularly of the upper parts of the perimeter walls and of the pediment of the façade, which appears blackened and might have suffered from mechanical stress due to the high temperature.

Following persistent requests by the Committee over the years, it is noted that arrangements are being made for the definition of the buffer zone and the finalization of the conservation and management plans, though these appear to have been delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they become available.

The urgent need for improved management instruments becomes even more evident in the light of the proposed upgrading of the secondary road from the RN003 road to the Choiseul parking area. This could open a new access to the Citadel that would have an impact on tourist flows and related infrastructure. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party not to undertake any works on this road until detailed documentation, including an analysis of its potential impact on the OUV of the property, has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by the Advisory Bodies.

The deviation of the RN003 road to outside the Park has also been the subject of concern by the Committee since its 34th session in 2010, when, in its Decision **34 COM 7B.110**, it requested the State Party “to halt the construction of Route RN003 within the limits of the property pending the development of other alternatives to be evaluated, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*”. The State Party has still not complied with this request, nor with other decisions adopted by the Committee or with the recommendations of past missions and technical reviews.

The 2013 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission recommended that the State Party explore three alternative routes outside the Park and keep the “Park Road” as a strictly local road.

ICOMOS undertook technical reviews of the Terms of Reference for studies of the route crossing the park in October 2012, March 2018 and August 2019, the latter two of which reiterated the 2013 mission's recommendations. ICOMOS also noted that the studies that would be required for an objective analysis and comparison of these alternatives had not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre, only an incomplete and superficial study of one alternative.

The Committee, in its decision **42 COM 7B.39**, again expressed its deep concern that the matter of the RN003 road had not been resolved satisfactorily and requested the State Party to confirm that the future route of the RN003 road would not pass through the property. It is regrettable that this assurance has not been given and instead the State Party indicates that the upgrading of the existing road through the Park, albeit in the form of a "Park Road", is the only viable solution. It appears that the State Party's proposal to upgrade the existing route through the Park is a decision mainly based on economic and technical considerations rather than on its potential impact on the OUV of the property, as illustrated in the 2013 mission report.

It is regrettable that the Advisory mission that was planned for March 2020 to focus on the upgrading/deviation of the RN003 road had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, consultations online with representatives of the State Party, the Delegation of the European Union to Haiti and the World Heritage Centre took place in January 2021. After that, ICOMOS undertook a technical review of the impact assessment studies of the project of the RN003 route crossing the Park that were submitted in March 2021. Noting the high quality of the studies, ICOMOS underlined their conclusions that the construction of the route would have a significantly adverse impact on the OUV of the World Heritage property.

The study places particular emphasis on the specificity of this property, a large and complex site which integrates landmark monuments, natural and cultural resources, and which is a territory of memory, but also a territory of life and agricultural production, all of these dimensions being closely dependent on each other in the definition of the property's OUV and its exposure to the impacts of any project developing within its perimeter. The potential impacts resulting from this project include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Uncontrolled urban expansion and urban sprawl (already taking place to the west of the park), which will constitute a major risk to the preservation of the property's OUV;
- The risk of fragmentation and loss of integrity of the landscape;
- Lack of road safety (the road is the main public space in the park) and increase in noise pollution;
- Deforestation;
- Hardening of the lines of the landscape, in particular due to works relating to water regulation and drainage;
- Risk of "touristification" and of setting a precedent for further infrastructure works within the Park, such as the above-mentioned secondary road from the RN003 road to the Choiseul parking area.

Proposed mitigation measures are presented in a separate document. These include the preservation and restoration of the landscape, safeguarding socio-cultural relations, and the installation of devices to control speed limits and protect inhabitants. These measures are immediately linked to the upgrading of the road, but have not been integrated into the technical project documentation. Furthermore, implementation of these measures would first require the undertaking of extremely meticulous and detailed studies. But perhaps more significantly, it is by no means clear that they could mitigate the negative impacts that have been identified.

Further proposed mitigation measures relate to the control of urban sprawl, including reforestation, promotion of sustainable tourism and preservation of traditional agriculture. These come under existing regulatory and management mechanisms and it is not clear that these would be strong enough to stop adverse impacts as they rely on mechanisms not yet in place, despite repeated requests for improvements to these mechanisms from the Committee since 2010.

Finally, in order to mitigate impacts relating to traffic, it is suggested that the road be kept as a scenic route, reserved mainly for local and tourist traffic. This is in total contradiction with the purpose of the project, which intends to create an alternative axis to connect two main centres of the country.

In summary, it is considered that the proposed mitigation measures cannot be seen to mitigate the adverse impacts arising from the rehabilitation of the RN003 road that have been reflected in decisions of the World Heritage Committee since 2010 and confirmed in the recent EIA and HIA studies that the rehabilitation of the RN003 road and would pose an imminent danger to the OUV of the property.

Consequently, in view of the potential danger to the property's OUV, it is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to take urgent action for the implementation of the recommendations of past Committee Decisions, by identifying an alternative solution that deviates the road outside of the boundaries of the park and by not taking any decision on the upgrading of the RN003 road or undertaking any physical works on the section of the RN003 road within the limits of the property, until all alternative solutions have been duly studied and a mission has been undertaken as soon as circumstances allow. It is further recommended that in the absence of significant progress in the implementation of these recommendations, the Committee consider the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger at its next session in 2022, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.68**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **34 COM 7B.110, 35 COM 7B.125, 36 COM 99, 37 COM 98, 38 COM 7B.44, 40 COM 7B.6 and 42 COM 7B.39**, adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010), 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Also recalling the numerous reports of the Advisory and Reactive Monitoring missions and their recommendations to the State Party on the conservation and management of the property;*
4. *Notes that the implementation of essential tools for the good management and conservation of the property, such as the definition of the buffer zone and the finalization of the conservation and management plans, that were supposed to have been undertaken in 2020 still remain to be completed, and requests the State Party to submit these documents to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as they become available;*
5. *Takes note of the reinforcement of management staff on the property, and urges the State Party to consolidate the management structure and its staff in the context of the proposed Management Plan;*
6. *Notes with great concern that the question of the deviation of the RN003 road is still not satisfactorily resolved, that the State Party is still concentrating on the upgrade of the existing road through the Park, and that the environmental and heritage impact assessments that the State Party has undertaken on the rehabilitation of the road through the Park confirm the serious impacts the road would have on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and that the proposed mitigation measures cannot be considered to mitigate the damage that would be caused;*
7. *Considers that the rehabilitation of the road through the Park poses a potential danger to the OUV of the property and reiterates its extreme concern that the State Party has*

not undertaken the studies that are necessary for an objective analysis and comparison of alternative routes outside the Park;

8. *Reiterating Decision 34 COM 7B.110*, that requested the State Party to "halt the construction of the RN003 within the limits of the property pending the development of other alternatives to be evaluated, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines", also requests the State Party to confirm that the future route of the RN003 will not pass through the property because it would seriously affect its integrity, and impact adversely on OUV, and to inform the Committee as soon as possible if and when the necessary studies for defining deviation outside the property will be made;
9. Notes with concern that the delays in the finalization of these actions and tools could ultimately constitute a potential danger to the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Deeply regrets the fire, which destroyed the Church of Milot in April 2020 and further requests the State Party to submit updated documentation on the implementation of the measures included in the Institute for the Preservation of National Heritage (ISPAN) emergency mission report and on whether tests have been carried out to verify the structural stability of the surviving structures;
11. Also urges the State Party to submit detailed documentation on the proposed upgrading of the secondary road from the RN003 to the Choiseul parking area, including an analysis of its potential impacts on the OUV of the property, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022, with a view to considering, in the absence of significant progress in the implementation of these recommendations, and in the case of confirmation of the ascertained danger to OUV, the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

## **69. Historic Centre of the City of Arequipa (Peru) (C 1016)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 75,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

February 2000: ICOMOS expert mission; July 2001: expert mission; August 2001: expert mission; April-May 2008: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2014: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage (deliberate demolition of historic buildings)
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Planned and ongoing development projects
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of a Risk Preparedness Plan)
- Lack of management plan (issue resolved)
- Housing (uncontrolled urban development)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/>

### Current conservation issues

On 16 December 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1016/documents/>. The report provides information on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as endorsed by the Committee at its previous sessions, and reports the following:

- The Master Plan of the Historic Centre of Arequipa and Buffer Zone was updated for the period 2019-2029 and approved by the Ministry of Culture. Presently, a public consultation process is underway and, once concluded, the Master Plan will be approved by the Municipal Council. This is expected during the first quarter of 2020. The Master Plan is fully articulated with the Risk Management Plan approved in 2015;
- The revision of the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone is foreseen in the Master Plan. Once this Plan is approved, the submission of a minor boundary modification, in accordance with paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines, will be formalized;
- An articulated and coordinated management structure is proposed in Articles 128 to 131 of the regulations of the proposed Master Plan. This includes a management authority (the *Superintendencia del Centro Historico*) composed of representatives of the Ministry of Culture, district municipalities, the college of architects, the chamber of commerce and industry, universities of Arequipa, and the Director (*Gerente*) of the Historical Centre and Monumental Zone;
- Regarding the Via Troncal Interconectora, the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the project proposed mitigation measures in 17 sectors, while the Decentralised Directorate of Culture will propose modifications to infrastructural components of the road to minimize impact on agricultural protection areas within and outside of the buffer zone;
- In the *Master Plan for the Historical Centre and Monumental Zone 2017-2027 (PlaMCha)*, specific sectors along the River Chilina are designated as Agricultural Cultural Landscapes. In addition, the Provincial Municipality of Arequipa has initiated the preparation of a *Specific Plan of the Urban Basin of the Chilina River* to regulate land use in order to preserve the landscape, and ecological and cultural characteristics. A *Specific Plan for Las Rocas de Chilina Ecological Park* has been proposed, but still needs to be coordinated with the Charcani VII Energy Project. Furthermore, the Ministry of Culture has delimited three other areas of the Chilina River valley as archaeological landscapes: the Lari Lari Sectors 1, 2 and 3. The formal declaration as Cultural Heritage of the Nation is pending. The recent recognition of Arequipa as a UNESCO “Creative City” in gastronomy may support agricultural activities in the city’s vicinity as part of its cultural identity;
- A number of conservation activities were undertaken for the Historic Centre of Arequipa, in addition to initiatives for strengthening heritage awareness among local communities.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

It is noted that over the past years, considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2014 mission in the following seven areas:

- The State Party has addressed recommendations regarding the boundaries of the property and the extended buffer zone, the management of the property and the Master Plan 2019-2029. Urban pressure on the river valley is addressed but the active promotion of agricultural activity remains to be introduced;
- The Risk Management Plan was approved in 2015 and forms the basis for the land uses and urban parameters as defined in the Master Plan. Coordination between the plans has thus been achieved;
- The *Metropolitan Development Plan 2016-2025* defined the monumental zone as an area of special regulations. The Master Plan addresses this requirement and, together with other planning instruments and protective measures, also ensures the protection of the agricultural terraced landscapes;
- The HIA of the *Chilina Bridge and the Via Truncal Interconectora* project, completed in 2017, concluded that there will be a minimal impact on the property and medium impact on the proposed buffer zone. The HIA proposed mitigation measures before, during and after the construction of the road. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to assess the level of implementation of these measures;
- Since the state of conservation report of 2016, the State Party has not reported any further on the project of a monorail mass transportation system, and it may be expected that this project will not be pursued any further.

The approval of the Master Plan by the Ministry of Culture, and the additional protective measures for agricultural landscape areas that will be included in the revised buffer zone, can be considered major achievements in the strengthening of the protection and management of the property. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to conclude the approval process of the Master Plan urgently so that its implementation can start immediately, and to urge the State Party to conclude the implementation of the remaining recommendations of the 2014 mission as soon as possible.

It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to inform the Committee if any progress has been made regarding the pedestrian circulation project around the Plaza Major and Salaverry-Malecon Viaduct that was subject to an ICOMOS technical review in 2017.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee also encourage the State Party to continue its efforts of awareness raising among local communities to involve them in the conservation initiatives at the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.69**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.41**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2014 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and urges the State Party to ensure their full implementation;*
4. *Welcomes the proposal of the 2019-2029 Master Plan of the Historic Centre of Arequipa and Buffer Zone by the Ministry of Culture and requests the State Party, through the Municipal Council of Arequipa, to finalize the approval process of the Master Plan as soon as possible, and also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about the approval and the measures that will be taken to ensure the immediate implementation of the Master Plan and its management structure;*

5. *Also urges the State Party to proceed with the submission of a minor boundary modification in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines to formalize the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone;*
6. *Notes with satisfaction that protective measures are being taken to protect the agricultural character of the Chilina River valley, and encourages the State Party to actively promote agricultural activities in the area;*
7. *Acknowledges the initiatives developed by the State Party, which aim to enhance the conservation and awareness raising activities at the Historic Centre among the local communities and also encourages it to continue these efforts;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to ensure the implementation of the mitigation measures related to the construction of the Via Troncal Interconectadora and the Chilina Bridge, including modifications of infrastructural works, as proposed in the 2017 Heritage Impact Assessment;*
9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre on any progress in the design of the pedestrian circulation project at the Plaza Major and Salaverry-Malecon Viaduct;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **70. Historic Inner City of Paramaribo (Suriname) (C 940rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 23,000 for the project "Management Plan for Paramaribo" in 2010; and USD 125,362 provided for the project "Inner City of Paramaribo. Phase I & II" from 2005 to 2008 (UNESCO/Netherlands Funds in Trust)

### Previous monitoring missions

August 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework
- Management systems/ management plan

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 14 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/940/documents/>, which reports the following:

- The Inter-American Development Bank IADB-funded *Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme* (PURP) is in full operation. A number of actions have been completed or are being undertaken on issues such as a housing strategy for the historic city centre, an inventory and manual on rehabilitation of historic buildings, urban mobility, a communication and social engagement plan, restoration of three government-owned historic buildings, reconstruction of the former National Assembly building. The Updated Management Plan 2020-2024 was completed in June 2019, but it is expected to be officially approved by the Government;
- In the context of the PURP, a Strategic Master Plan for the entire Waterfront was developed, via a participatory process, and consists of comprehensive design strategies for a sustainable and lively waterfront. A consultant is being selected to prepare a final executive design for the rehabilitation of part of the Waterfront, which will not necessarily follow the design set out in the Master Plan. Once completed, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be conducted. As the rehabilitation of the Waterfront may impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, the preliminary design will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;
- The license for construction at the Waterfront was withdrawn in February 2018;
- The proposal to extend the property boundaries was discussed with relevant authorities but, to date, no action has been taken to formalize this proposal;
- In response to the Committee's request regarding the destruction of four buildings, it is reported that three were located within the property. Two of these were not listed as monuments (Watermolenstraat 16 and 18), and were partly damaged by fire but remain occupied. The third building (Watermolenstraat 20), a C-listed monument, was illegally demolished. The fourth building, located in the buffer zone (Wagenwegstraat 62), also a C-listed monument, was replaced by a new wooden building in a historic style with approximately the same measurements;
- Ample attention is given to fire prevention and disaster management both in the recently-completed Retrofit Manual for Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings, and in the Updated Management Plan 2020-2024;
- The decay of several monumental buildings within the property remains a concern and it is unclear when they will be restored.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Important actions are being undertaken in the framework of the PURP in a wide variety of areas such as housing, mobility, water management, communication and the updating of the Management Plan for 2020-2024.

The withdrawal of the license for construction at the Waterfront, and the development of a Strategic Master Plan (SMP) for the whole Waterfront, is highly welcomed. The version submitted by the State Party aims to prepare the city for a one-metre rise in sea level by the end of this century. This is highly relevant for the conservation of the property and, at the same time, poses a major challenge for the adaptation of one of its most important attributes. The State Party should be commended for its intention to involve the World Heritage Centre in the review of final designs in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

It is unfortunate that the State Party has not made any progress in the extension of the boundaries of the property to include a 50-metre strip along the river - which is even more relevant and urgent in light of the Waterfront development - nor in the extension of the buffer zones. Therefore, the State Party should be urged to complete this process following the procedures established for a Minor Boundary Modification.

The demolition, destruction by fire or decay of monumental buildings is considered to be a key factor affecting the property. The State Party should be recommended to actively pursue the restoration of



publicly-owned buildings, raise awareness among private owners, support private initiatives and enforce obligations under local legislation.

It is noted with interest that under PURP, three government-owned buildings are being restored and that the former National Assembly Building will be reconstructed.

Regarding the former National Assembly Building, the State Party and ICOMOS engaged in a constructive consultation process, including ICOMOS Technical Reviews of three successive design stages. Agreement was reached on a final design that implies the reconstruction of the volumes, roofs and three façades (front and sides) of the original buildings, while use of contemporary materials and architectural language in the interior and back sides of the buildings has been accepted. ICOMOS emphasizes that this should be considered an exceptional case under exceptional circumstances (such as the existence of reliable drawings and documentation; that these buildings are essential elements in the urban landscape of this part of the inner city; and the importance in the collective memory of the population of these landmark buildings of the periods of colonialism and independence) and should not be seen as a precedent for other cases. In this sense, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit as soon as possible the projects and designs of the three government-owned buildings (Mirandastraat 10 and Waterkant 30-32) that will be restored under PURP, as well as the guidelines that are included in the Retrofit Manual for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.70**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.42**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Takes note with appreciation of the activities that are being undertaken in the framework of the Inter-American Development Bank IADB-funded Paramaribo Urban Rehabilitation Programme (PURP) and its Strategic Master Plan that expresses an integral approach to the conservation of the World Heritage property, including housing, mobility, water management and community participation;*
4. *Welcomes the withdrawal of the license for construction at the Waterfront, and that the Strategic Master Plan proposed for the whole of the Waterfront is being developed to address the challenges posed by rising sea-levels of up to one metre by the end of this century;*
5. *Considering that the Waterfront constitutes one of the main attributes of the World Heritage property, invites the State Party to submit the final designs for the Waterfront, as soon as they become available, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Recalls the importance of the extension of the boundaries of the property to include a 50 metre strip along the river, as well the extension of the boundaries of the buffer zone, and urges again the State Party to proceed with these extensions and to submit them as a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Also takes note of the completion of the Updated Management Plan 2020-2024 for the property and also urges the State Party to finalize its approval as soon as possible;*
8. *Regrets the repeated demolition, destruction by fire and decay of the wooden building stock, both government and privately-owned, and recommends that the State Party*

*increase its efforts to raise awareness and promote participation of the population and owners in the recuperation of the historical centre and its individual structures;*

9. *Notes with appreciation that the State Party engaged in constructive consultations with ICOMOS regarding the reconstruction of the former National Assembly Building, and emphasizes that the reconstruction as agreed upon is an exceptional case due to exceptional circumstances and should not be seen as a precedent for other cases;*
10. *Also welcomes that three government-owned buildings will be restored in the framework of PURP, and requests the State Party to submit as soon as possible their architectural designs as well as the guidelines that are included in the Retrofit Manual for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
11. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **MIXED PROPERTIES**

### **AFRICA**

#### **71. Ennedi Massif: Natural and Cultural Landscape (Chad) (C/N 1475)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (iii)(vii)(ix)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription in 2016:

- Need to strengthen the legal protection status of the property and to extend the property to include all attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)
- Inadequate management plan and lack of management authority
- Need for a zonation which allows full protection of the key areas for biodiversity
- Need to guarantee the full participation of the local communities and of their traditional authorities in the management of the property

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 9 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1475/documents/>. The report provides very little new information compared to the previous report and is summarized as follows:

- In 2019, a new law (n°018/PR/2018 of 10 January) was passed on the protection of cultural heritage, which provides the legal framework for the Natural and Cultural Reserve of Ennedi (RNCE) established in 2016;
- In 2018, a new Directorate for Heritage and Management of inscribed sites (*Direction du patrimoine et de gestion des sites classes*) was established;
- Since its inscription, the property has not faced imminent threats and local management continues effectively with the participation of local communities, the local management committee, traditional owner organisations and civil society;
- A local intelligence system was developed via the local management committee;
- A good collaboration exists between the defence and security forces of the two provinces of the property to monitor possible offences;

- The partnership with the African Parks Network (APN) will establish an integrated RNCE monitoring system, including a brigade of 50 ecoguards to patrol the protected area and improve management, with a second brigade of 25 ecoguards for reactive support;
- The 2016 APN camera-trap survey data on human-wildlife interaction at water points will be used to inform the potential development of future wildlife viewing tourism;
- Management committees have been established for the four tourist sites of Guelta d'Archeï, Guelta de Bachikélé, Aloba and Terkey;
- Collaboration with local populations is reported as effective for the management of poaching, and firewood;
- A five-year business plan for the management of the RNCE contributes to strengthen the co-conservation and management of the property.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

The State Party provides little new information on the state of conservation of the property or on the actions taken to implement the requests of the Committee at the time of inscription (Decision **40 COM 8B.15**). It is important to recall that the 2016 Advisory Bodies evaluation of the nomination considered the nomination premature for inscription because the property did not meet the protection and management requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*, the need to further document attributes under criterion (ix) and the fact that the proposed boundaries were considered inadequate to protect all attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

While the adoption of the 2019 Law on the protection of cultural heritage and the creation of the Directorate is a positive step, its implication for overall management remains unclear and the State Party has not provided any information on the request by the Committee to further improve the protection status of the property and to undertake a comprehensive review of legislative arrangements. The State Party also provides no information on progress towards the development of a strategy to establish a detailed botanical inventory of the site, to identify all important refugia and areas for relict flora that may further justify the application of Criterion (ix), or on the requested extension of the property to include and adequately protect all attributes of the OUV. The State Party has still to submit the detailed report of the extent of the damage and measures taken to rehabilitate affected rock art sites surveyed in 2017 requested by the Committee in 2018 (Decision **42 COM 7B.64**). The foreseen establishment of an integrated ecoguard monitoring and patrol brigade was already reported by the State Party in 2017.

The local intelligence system and new defense and provincial security force collaboration are important steps to improve monitoring, surveillance and compliance for the property. It is noted that the State Party reports no imminent threat to the property since inscription and that local indigenous management continues to be effective, however it is important to recall that the 2016 evaluation considered management at the time of inscription to be inadequate and stressed the importance to complement this traditional management system with a more formal management system. The overall management framework remains unclear and no recommended additional documentation of traditional management systems is reported. The State Party provides no information on the request of the Committee to provide a revised Management Plan for the whole property meeting the international standards, which should clarify the management responsibilities of the new system in coordination with the traditional management, spell out management operations to conserve the World Heritage values, include a zonation, which allows full protection of the key areas for biodiversity, details the measures foreseen to address the main potential threats, guarantees the full participation of the local communities and of their traditional authorities in the management of the property and clarifies the institutional management regime of the property and provides a detailed staffing and budget consistent with the effective implementation of the required management. The State Party report mentions a 5-year business plan prepared by APN for the area, which facilitates the management of the property, but provides no further details on its content.

It is important that potential plans to establish future wildlife and cultural tourism should be carefully considered in the context of the OUV of the property. It is recalled that tourism pressure was considered by the 2016 evaluation to be limited, but likely to increase with potential to cause impacts on the sensitive environment of the Ennedi and induce changes in the traditional socio-economic structures. Tourism development should be addressed in a strategic and integrated manner as part of the overall management of the property.

It is recommended that the Committee express its regret on the lack of information provided by the State Party in addressing the outstanding concerns raised at the time of inscription (Decision **40 COM 8B.15**) and in 2018 (Decision **42 COM 7B.64**), These issues should be addressed urgently to ensure an adequate protection of the OUV of the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.71**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 8B.15**, **41 COM 8B.52** and **42 COM 7B.64**, adopted at its 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,
3. Regrets that the State Party provided little new information on the state of conservation of the property nor on the actions taken to implement the requests of the Committee at the time of inscription and in subsequent decisions;
4. Welcomes the ongoing actions of the State Party and African Parks Network (APN) partnership to strengthen the protection and management of the property, with financial support of the European Union and other partners, including the establishment of a new government Directorate and legislation for the protection of cultural heritage;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently address the issues identified at the time of inscription of the property and to provide a clear timeframe for their implementation:
  - a) Strengthen the legal protection status of the property by the creation as of December 2016 of a protected area with a regime of protection adequate to the values of the property and meeting the protection requirements of the Convention,
  - b) Establish a revised Management Plan for the whole property, meeting the international standards, including an operational implementation calendar for all steps needed to achieve this goal and clarify the management responsibilities of the new system in coordination with the traditional one which has been in place until today, and which clearly:
    - (i) Spell out management operations to conserve the World Heritage values,
    - (ii) Include a zonation which allows full protection of the key areas for biodiversity,
    - (iii) Detail the measures foreseen to address the main potential threats,
    - (iv) Guarantee the full participation of the local communities and of their traditional authorities in the management of the property,
    - (v) Clarify the institutional management regime of the property and provides a detailed staffing and budget consistent with the effective implementation of the required management,
  - c) Include a strategy to establish a detailed botanical inventory of the site, to identify all important refugia and areas for relict flora that may further justify the application of Criterion (ix);

6. *Noting the 2017 surveys and the inventory of rock art vandalism, also reiterates its request for the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre a detailed report on the extent of the damage and measures taken to rehabilitate the affected sites;*
7. *Urges the State Party to consult with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before finalizing the proposal for the boundaries of the Natural and Cultural Reserve of Ennedi so as to guarantee that all important areas are included and that an appropriate buffer zone is foreseen, and to submit a request for boundary modification for examination by the World Heritage Committee;*
8. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, 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 45th session in 2022.*

## 72. Cliff of Bandiagara (Land of the Dogons) (Mali) (C/N 516)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (v)(vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1988-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 124,444

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: in 2020, US\$ 984,818 by the International Alliance for Heritage Protection in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) for the "Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of the Built Heritage of Bandiagara"

### Previous monitoring missions

July 2019: Needs assessment mission on the built and intangible cultural heritage as well as objects and practices associated with the Cliffs of Bandiagara (joint Mali-UNESCO mission), conducted in the framework of the UNESCO Emergency Heritage Fund.

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient site management means
- Illicit trafficking of cultural property
- Instable security situation
- Intercommunity conflict between the Dogons and the Fulani

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/516/>

### Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report on the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list516/documents/>, followed, on 28 January 2020, by additional information and documents providing the following information:

- Since 2012, the property and its population have been greatly affected by armed intercommunity tension and conflict between the Dogons and the Fulani. Tension has worsened since 2019, leading to numerous executions: murderous attacks, destruction of entire villages and Toguna (communal meeting places), millet granaries and buildings set on fire, cattle stolen, movable property destroyed or seized as war booty, thus obliging the communities to abandon their

villages. The State Party presents a table summarising the incidents noted in the communities and villages within and around the property;

- Faced with this crisis, an “Evaluation Mission on the relative needs of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including the objects and practices associated with the Cliff of Bandiagara”, comprising Malian experts, was sent in July 2019 and funded under UNESCO World Heritage Emergency Funds. The mission report, available at <http://who.unesco.org/en/list/516/documents>, contains the conclusions and recommendations regarding the safeguarding of movable, immovable and intangible heritage as well as an Emergency Action Plan;
- Concerning the intangible heritage, the report notes the cessation or rarity of cultural events, notably affecting the cyclic ritual ceremonies, both pastoral (transhumance) and agrarian (agrarian, funeral, religious, social traditional rituals, etc.) as well as cultural practices associated with the regulation of society. For example, the “Yaaraal@Degal” element inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, will not be celebrated for at least five years;
- Activities carried out with International Assistance granted in 2018 have enabled the restoration of the site of Sessé and the Pelou “gin’na (large family house), the inventory of movable and immovable property at the site and the restoration of gin’nas, and to raise public awareness of the need for heritage protection through theatrical means and cultural events, including heritage educational sessions in schools in three localities;
- Efforts to closely involve local communities continue. Support from the Dogon Initiative Association (ADI) has enabled the restoration and maintenance of gin’na and houses in several villages, and heritage education actions, notably through a training project for young people, teaching construction techniques using local materials. The Cultural Mission is involved with partners in Burkina Faso for the preservation of masks;
- Due to limited financial resources and increasing insecurity, the State Party is appealing to the international community in order to assist in actions to reestablish confidence between the communities, safeguard heritage and cultural diversity, rehabilitate damaged or destroyed cultural property, and improve the living conditions of the local communities by supporting economic recovery’.

The joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to examine the overall management of the property, requested by the World Heritage Committee in 2016, was not possible due to the instable security situation.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies*

The State Party report and that of the emergency evaluation mission of July 2019, provide substantial information in comprehending both the evolution of the particularly worrying security situation, as highlighted by the Committee at its 43<sup>rd</sup> session (Baku, 2019), and the actions carried out to ensure the safeguarding of the cultural heritage. It is regrettable that the Reactive Monitoring mission, requested on several occasions by the Committee since 2016, has not yet been implemented due to the instable security situation. The national mission report of July 2019 therefore constitutes at this point, the most complete *in situ* information on the state of conservation of the cultural values of the property. It should be noted that the mandate of the mission was distinct from that of a UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to undertake a complete evaluation of the state of conservation of the cultural values that comprise the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

The actions of the State Party, through the Cultural Mission of Bandiagara, the local communities and the ADI to ensure the preservation of the property and the safeguarding of the entire rich and living heritage in the face of multiple current adversities, notably through the implementation of International Assistance, are to be commended.

However, the insecurity situation resulting from intercommunity conflicts threaten not only cultural heritage in all its forms, but also damage all aspects of everyday life of the battered communities, often obliged to abandon their villages. It should be noted that the cultural heritage does not appear to be deliberately targeted, but is rather affected as the result of an uncontrollable situation. Indeed, the July 2019 mission recognises in its conclusion that the Cliff of Bandiagara property is on the way to becoming a lawless zone due to the increasing insecurity situation. It emphasises that following the summary evaluation and the rapid diagnosis of the state of conservation of the cultural heritage, it would be

appropriate, without exaggeration, to draw the attention to the need for an urgent and efficient implementation of support actions for the property and its inhabitants.

Whilst acknowledging the mobilisation and actions carried out by the State Party and the commitment of all the stakeholders, and the resilience of the Dogon and Péuls communities, the gravity of the threats being faced by the property must be recognised. In the light of this alarming situation, it is important to support the State Party in the implementation of the Emergency Action Plan proposed by the July 2019 mission, to ensure not only the preservation of the movable and immovable heritage, but also to guide actions to secure the zone so that the heritage can serve as a vector for the enhancement of the cultural identities and practices of all the communities that live there, and more particularly in the reconciliation measures between the latter. In this respect, the approval, in July 2020 by ALIPH of important funding to an amount of USD 984,818 for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the built and tangible heritage (also including cultural objects) is to be especially applauded. This said, recalling that this is a mixed property, it is important that the State Party considers the impacts of insecurity in the context of natural values as well as cultural ones, including all management and intervention decisions. In this event, all emergency action undertaken to protect the cultural heritage (support to agriculture, stone buildings, etc.) should guarantee the protection of natural heritage values.

It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to establish a multidisciplinary working group for a limited period with the capacity to act upon and supervise the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 mission as well as the Emergency Action Plan, the objectives of which comprise, among others, the rehabilitation of the built heritage and traditional houses that have suffered damage, and the promotion of intercultural dialogue for peace, social cohesion and community living. As regards the types of heritage, such as tangible cultural heritage or the protection of cultural objects, it is recommended that the State Party also consult the Secretariats of other UNESCO Cultural Conventions.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.72**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.65** and **43 COM 7.2**, adopted respectively at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions,*
3. *Congratulates the State Party for the actions carried out, through the Cultural Mission of Bandiagara, for the conservation of the property and the safeguarding of certain aspects of the overall rich and living heritage thanks to the International Assistance granted in 2018 and the commitment of the local communities, notably the Dogon Initiative Association (ADI), enabling the restoration and maintenance of some gin'na and various houses, the initiation of an inventory of movable and immovable properties, educational programmes for young people and raising awareness in the population with regard to safeguarding the heritage and the combat against the illicit trafficking of cultural property;*
4. *Expresses its grave concern with regard to intercommunity conflict noted within and outside the property between the Dogon and Fulani communities resulting in the destruction of houses and whole villages, granaries and tangible property, animals and harvests, and which constitute an increasing threat to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, and deplores in particular the considerable loss of human life, as well as numerous events;*
5. *Notes with concern that the joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to examine the overall management of the property, especially the ways and means to strengthen traditional practices and the diversification of possibilities for sustainable development for the local communities, was not possible due to insecurity problems, and requests the State Party to invite, as soon as circumstances permit, a joint*



*UNESCO/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to examine the state of conservation of the cultural and natural heritage and the overall management of the property in the context of the current security crisis;*

6. *Expresses its satisfaction that an “Evaluation Mission on the Relative Needs of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including objects and practices associated with the Cliff of Bandiagara” comprising Malian cultural heritage experts was sent to the property in July 2019, with financial support from the UNESCO World Heritage Emergency Fund, and supports the conclusions and recommendations of that mission, as well as the Emergency Action Plan, and calls upon the State Party and the international community to mobilise all necessary means for their implementation;*
7. *Welcomes the financial support of the International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH) for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the built heritage, including cultural objects, and also requests the State Party to keep it informed of progress in the implementation of activities;*
8. *Further requests that the State Party considers the impacts of insecurity in the context of cultural and natural heritage values of this mixed property, including all the management and intervention decisions, ensuring that the emergency actions undertaken can protect the cultural heritage and guarantee the protection of natural heritage values;*
9. *Taking into account the current state of the property, that justifies the establishment of a mechanism and specific actions for its preservation, requests moreover that the State Party establish a multidisciplinary working group for a five-year period, with the capacity to act and supervise the implementation of the recommendations and the Emergency Action Plan of the 2019 mission, notably for the rehabilitation of the built heritage and the traditional houses damaged or destroyed, guide all actions and enable the heritage to serve as a vector for the enhancement of cultural identities and practices of all the communities living there, and more particularly in reconciliation measures between them;*
10. *Also appeals to the international community to support the efforts of the State Party in safeguarding the cultural and natural heritage of this property, and finally in order to address the heritage in all its forms as raised by the emergency evaluation mission, recommends the State Party to also consult the Secretariats of the other UNESCO Cultural Conventions in this respect;*
11. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022.*

## ARAB STATES

### 73. The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (Iraq) (C/N 1481)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 74. Wadi Rum Protected Area (Jordan) (C/N 1377)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2011

Criteria (iii)(v)(vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing
- Lack of a database on cultural heritage
- Lack of proper conservation and maintenance of the archaeological sites
- Lack of traffic and visitor management plans
- Potential encroachment from development in the village of Rum
- Lack of trained staff and financial resources for the management of the property
- Financial resources
- Governance
- Human resources
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management systems/ management plan
- Solid waste

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 28 November 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1377/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Uncontrolled tourist camps and the rehabilitation of degraded areas remain the biggest challenge facing the property's management. Nevertheless, efforts are being put in place to enforce legislative measures, engage different actors in the tourism management process and raise

awareness of the threats. Achieving a sustainable model for tourism development at the site and its buffer zone remains a priority;

- A full revision of the buffer zone was undertaken and a new buffer zone endorsed by the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) Board of Commissioners in early 2019. The associated new land use plan was translated into a set of legal regulations and transmitted with the report. The revised buffer zone will be submitted to the Committee through the procedure for Minor Boundary Modification;
- The revised Integrated Management Plan (IMP) was submitted in October 2019 and implementation to commence in 2020. Supported by a financial sustainability plan, the new IMP strengthens the legal framework and cooperation mechanisms between ASEZA and other stakeholders;
- Management, social, technical and financial constraints have impacted the development of a wastewater treatment plant. A pre-feasibility study was undertaken to explore options for liquid waste water management for the tourist camps, with a second phase planned to focus on sanitation for Rum village and third phase on Disi villages;
- A specialized management unit was established for Rum Village;
- Several collaborations with national and international institutions have been developed, focusing on management and conservation activities, updating of inventories, and capacity building. In addition, a technical advisor is carrying out a capacity and needs assessment of staff for a future training plan;
- The integration process of cultural heritage databases with natural heritage databases into one compatible Geographic Information System (GIS) is being continued. Upon completion, this database will contribute to the implementation of an integrated monitoring system under the IMP;
- Efforts are underway to update the status of the property as a national protected area, establish a national coordination mechanism for planning and management, and plans to nominate the property to the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas in 2020;
- With the help of a technical advisor, Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessments (EIA) and (HIA) will be conducted for tourism activities in 2020. The report will be shared with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies*

The State Party has continued its efforts to address the Committee's concerns and the recommendations made by the 2014 Reactive Monitoring mission, despite financial and technical challenges.

The development of the "General Provisions and Regulations of the Buffer Zone of Wadi Rum Protected Area", the "Strategic Plan for Land Use Planning the Buffer Zone of Rum Protected area", and the "Instructions for regulating camping, touristic activities and events within Wadi Rum Protected Area" are welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre once these documents have been published in the official gazette. In order to enforce the implementation of the adopted land-use plan and its regulations on the ground, capacity building, local community engagement and awareness-raising are to be further encouraged. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to pursue its efforts towards enforcing these legal instruments and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed.

While the efforts to address the issue of tourist camps and other camp-like installations within the property are noted, it is of concern that uncontrolled tourism continues to be the biggest challenge facing the property. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to urgently address this issue to rehabilitate any areas that may have been degraded, and to establish procedures and regulations that will ensure a permanent resolution of the issue.

The revision of the IMP is another important step towards improving the management of the property. However, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to revisit the IMP in accordance with the technical reviews provided by the Advisory Bodies, and to ensure that strategic objectives are supported by targeted and measurable actions, including those related to carrying capacity studies, zoning and regulations, and the inclusion of a comprehensive conservation strategy for the petroglyphs, inscriptions and archaeological sites, among others. It is also recommended that the IMP provides

further detail on the legal and institutional frameworks of Wadi Rum Protected Area (WRPA), as well as the mechanisms of coordination and communication with all key institutions, clarifying roles and mandates.

No substantial progress has been made in addressing the wastewater problem associated with Rum village and the tourism camps, despite the State Party having prioritized this in its previous report. While the development of a pre-feasibility study regarding the tourist camps is noted, no timeframe for the establishment of the wastewater treatment plant project has been provided. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to accelerate decisions on the most appropriate water treatment options, including the recommended pre-feasibility study required for the potential risks to the Disi Aquifer.

The reported collaboration initiatives with national and international institutions, such as pursuing the IUCN Green List standard, are welcomed as they are instrumental in implementing capacity building activities, data gathering and scientific research activities essential for more effective management of the property.

It is further recommended that the Committee continues to encourage the State Party to complete the integration process of cultural heritage databases with natural heritage databases into one compatible GIS which is specifically designed to support management processes including, for example, monitoring in coordination with the new IMP.

The State Party's intention to implement the EIA and HIA for tourism activities in and around the property, in accordance with the recommendations of the 2014 mission, will be of utmost importance to contribute to the sustainable management of the property. It is recommended that the Committee urges again the State Party to expeditiously implement all recommendations of the 2014 mission, particularly with regards to carrying out these impact assessments as a matter of priority to ensure the long-term conservation of the property.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.74**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.67**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Welcomes the significant progress made with regards to the development of the buffer zone provisions and regulations, as well as a related land use plan and the proposal to submit these changes as a Minor Boundary Modification to the World Heritage Centre, and requests the State Party to pursue the implementation of the "General Provisions and Regulations of the Buffer Zone of Wadi Rum Protected Area", and to inform the World Heritage Centre once this has been published in the official gazette;*
4. *While noting the development of the "Instructions for regulating camping, touristic activities and events within Wadi Rum Protected Area", also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre once this document has been published in the official gazette;*
5. *Expresses concern that uncontrolled tourism continues to present the biggest challenge facing the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently address the issue of tourist camps and other camp-like installations within the property, to rehabilitate any areas that may have been degraded, and to ensure strict enforcement of the above mentioned instructions;*
6. *Also welcomes the confirmation that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of tourism activities in and around the property will be carried out, and further requests the State Party to finalize this process as an important step towards ensuring sustainable tourism management in the property;*

7. *Further welcomes the submission of the draft Integrated Management Plan (IMP), and requests furthermore the State Party to revisit the IMP in accordance with the technical reviews provided by the Advisory Bodies, identifying targeted actions to be implemented, including those to address issues related to carrying capacity studies, zoning and regulations, and the inclusion of a comprehensive conservation strategy, and to ensure that the IMP provides references to legal measures and policies, and is backed by the necessary trained staff and financial resources, to enable the effective management of the property and its buffer zone;*
8. *Also expresses concern that no substantial progress has been made in addressing the wastewater problem of Rum Village and the tourism camps, as well as the Disi villages which pose a potential risk to the Disi Aquifer, and urges the State Party to accelerate the development of wastewater treatment facilities and provide a clear timeframe for their completion;*
9. *Welcomes furthermore the State Party's progress in pursuing collaboration with national and international institutions for achieving the highest standards in science- and evidence-based decision-making related to the management of the property;*
10. *Continues to encourage the State Party to expeditiously complete the integration of the cultural heritage database with the natural heritage database into one compatible Geographic Information System (GIS) database, to support and facilitate the integrated monitoring and management of the cultural and natural attributes of the property, in line with the new IMP;*
11. *Also urges once again the State Party to continue to actively pursue the implementation of all recommendations of the 2014 mission, particularly with regards to carrying out assessment of tourism activities through EIA and HIA processes in and around the property;*
12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### 75. Tasmanian Wilderness (Australia) (C/N 181quinquies)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 76. Trang An Landscape Complex (Viet Nam) (C/N 1438bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (v)(vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September/October 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / management plan (Need to revise the management and zoning plans, including tourism planning and consideration of the adequacy of permissible activities and developments; Lack of an appropriate buffer zone; Need to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for any major developments within the property and the buffer zone)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Developments and urbanization stemming from tourism and recreation; Localized, seasonal overcrowding and lack of clarity in terms of planning of tourism infrastructure and services; Need to reinforce full accountability for private tourism actors with respect to the protection of features of possible Outstanding Universal Value; Need to assess the carrying capacity of the property in the context of increasing visitation)
- Commercial development (illegally built concrete walkway, replica film set)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place between 28 September and 3 October 2019. On 29 November 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1438/documents> and responds to previous Committee decisions as follows:

- The Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property is maintained; tourism and conservation are sustainably balanced. Awareness-raising activities have taken place with stakeholders regarding the protection, preservation and promotion of the values of the property, and local communities have benefited from these activities;

- Historical and cultural relics, security, public order, environmental sanitation, and tourism infrastructure are in good condition. A Management and Scientific Advisory Committee has been established;
- Passive sightseeing by boat tours along fixed routes in five of the six main tourism locations limits environmental impact. Tourism facilities are regularly maintained and are being expanded in response to visitor demand. Variation in visitation throughout the year is reducing. Visitation continues to grow, from 2.9 million in 2018 to a predicted 3.5 million in 2020 (estimated prior to the COVID-19 crisis). With upgraded facilities, this growth is considered manageable by the State Party with no foreseen impacts on the environment;
- The Management Board has initiated a three-year project entitled “Determining the visitor carrying capacity of the Trang An Landscape Complex – World Heritage Property, Ninh Binh”, which aims to set management objectives, establish a carrying capacity, and identify the necessary tourism infrastructure and services;
- New Decrees and Regulations were issued to improve the protection and management of the property. The operational budget is growing, staff numbers are increasing and employees are encouraged to conduct research and undertake professional training. Monitoring programmes addressing the environmental and social impacts from tourism are occurring in conjunction with university researchers. Improved local approval processes are regulating construction projects;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) are proposed for major developments within the property and its buffer zone;
- The movie set replica village and the illegally constructed concrete pathway have been removed;
- Property and buffer zone boundary markers have been installed, along with an archaeological display in the visitor centre at Trang An wharf, and information is provided on the SUNDASIA research programme about community response to past climate and environmental change.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN

The 2019 mission found that the condition of the property has improved in recent years, generating financial benefits and local employment as the result of increased visitation. However, it also noted that growing tourism remains a major threat to the OUV requiring urgent attention, emphasizing the need to complete the carrying capacity study and assess the cumulative impacts of development in and around the property through an SEA and HIA. The State Party’s assurance that the carrying capacity study, SEA and HIA are considered a priority for the Management Board is welcomed.

The removal of illegal and inappropriate constructions, including the replica movie set, is a positive response to the Committee’s decisions and a strong step towards the necessary focus on conservation and authentic interpretation of the values of the property. The mission concluded that the physical conservation of the property is satisfactory, largely because much of the property is inaccessible and most tourism opportunities involve ‘passive’ sightseeing by boat. Nevertheless, further strengthening of knowledge gaps, such as on biodiversity conservation, was considered necessary to reinforce the values of the property.

The 2021-2026 Management Plan for the property, which is yet to be finalized, should demonstrate clearly how the State Party intends to guarantee the preservation of the property’s OUV by reinforcing a proactive governance approach and interlinking individual management actions to strategic objectives. All staff and stakeholders should be empowered through the management processes, and the Management Board should be strengthened through solid expertise in heritage management, nature conservation and sustainable tourism. The mission has provided a series of recommendations that should be fully considered when updating the Management Plan.

Progress reported by the State Party includes active international cooperation and collaboration with national experts in archaeological research and *in situ* conservation. The initiation of the much-needed carrying capacity study is positive, but it is of great concern that year-round visitation is continuing to increase and largely surpassed the 2 million visitors by 2020 estimated at the time of inscription. The establishment of an ad hoc Management and Scientific Advisory Committee has improved decision making. However, there is a continuing need for comprehensive planning beyond project-level assessments: systematic monitoring of natural and cultural values; regular review of priorities to determine budget and human resource allocation; a documentation system for built heritage; and a documentation and storage process for moveable heritage.

The development and implementation of an overall interpretation plan and public outreach strategy are fundamental to involving stakeholders in conservation and management, and in addressing the effects of growing tourism. Continued international cooperation is required to strengthen national ownership and capacity, and to address knowledge gaps for the management of both natural and cultural attributes of the property. The integration of the local community in site management would help articulate a long-term vision to preserve the living heritage site, taking into account the well-being and spiritual fulfilment of diverse stakeholders. The implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission will address the majority of the issues raised by the Committee and facilitate the effective conservation and management of the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.76**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.14**, **40 COM 7B.67** and **42 COM 7B.62**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the actions taken by the State Party in addressing the Committee's requests, including the removal of inappropriate infrastructure within the property, the regulation of local development initiatives, improvements to conservation and management, the establishment of an ad hoc Management and Scientific Advisory Committee, the active scientific cooperation for the property at the international and national levels, capacity enhancements for the staff of the Management Authority, and increased budgetary allocations;
4. Noting with significant concern that visitation continues to increase beyond previous estimates, strongly urges the State Party to expedite the proposed study to determine the sustainable carrying capacity of the property, and requests the State Party to ensure the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is at the core of this study and that its findings are strictly enforced, especially regarding limits on visitation at 'hot spots' and throughout the property and the offer of alternative itineraries for visitors;
5. Also requests the State Party to ensure that existing management tools and new Decrees and Regulations are aligned in order to allow for a proactive approach to the overall management of the property by the Management Board, notably by:
  - a) Ensuring a balanced approach to tourism, heritage management and nature conservation as a whole, with appropriate expertise within the Management Board,
  - b) Applying a clearer reporting protocol concerning any major new development within the property and ensure the necessary prior consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Notes the conclusions and recommendations of the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and also urges the State Party to instigate a well-resourced programme for the progressive implementation of the mission recommendations, particularly with respect to:
  - a) Further improvements to governance and management,



- b) *Comprehensive and proactive planning, beyond project-level assessments, to ensure a systematic monitoring of natural and cultural values,*
  - c) *A regular review of priorities to determine budget and human resource allocation,*
  - d) *A documentation system for built and moveable heritage and a storage system for moveable heritage,*
  - e) *The development of an overall interpretation plan and public outreach strategy,*
  - f) *Continued international cooperation,*
  - g) *A survey of the natural landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity, archaeological elements of different historical periods, and moveable heritage, and*
  - h) *The involvement of the local community in site management;*
7. *Also welcomes the State Party's assurances that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be undertaken for any major developments within the property and its buffer zones, and reiterates its request to the State Party to use these tools to assess both the individual and cumulative impacts of current and planned developments, with a special focus on potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in line with the IUCN and ICOMOS guidelines on impact assessments;*
8. *Further urges the State Party to finalize the Management Plan for the property, as a matter of high priority, in line with the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission, and to ensure the integration of biodiversity conservation into the management and decision-making processes;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA**

### **77. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania/North Macedonia) (C/N 99)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 78. Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche (Mexico) (C/N 1061bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (i)(ii)(iii)(iv)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Governance (need to strengthen the coordinating mechanism)
- Legal framework (need to assure that the buffer zone is configured in a way designed to protect the property)
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of an integrated Protection and Management Plan)
- Weak monitoring system for the Cultural and Natural values

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 10 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1061/documents/> and reports the following:

- While the State Party is considering the Committee's recommendations regarding the property's delimitation and protection, the legal protection of the entire property and its buffer zone is guaranteed by the legal instruments in force;
- The Specific Project, undertaken within the framework of the General Bases for Collaboration between the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) and the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), had as its main objectives to develop the Management Plan for the property, integrating the policies of both institutions, and to define zoning within the property and its buffer zone;
- In this framework, a management workshop was held in October 2019 between CONANP, INAH and stakeholders to conclude the preparation of the Management Plan, which is annexed to the State Party report;
- The Management Plan defines three zones within the property: the Restricted Use Zone, the Preservation Zone and the Cultural and Natural Interpretation Zone. The part of the buffer zone immediately surrounding the property is divided into zones for traditional use, sustainable use of ecosystems and the South fringe buffer zone. Permitted and non-permitted activities are listed for each type of zone;

- 38 archaeological sites have been identified within the property. Of these, 17 are within the Restricted Use Zone where no human activity is allowed, and 21 are within the Preservation Zone where very little activity is allowed. The Cultural and Natural Interpretation Zone refers to the Calakmul Archaeological Zone, the Piedra Rota area and the zone that includes El Zacatal, Dos Aguadas and Oxpemul sites, all of which are open to the public and accessible from the Museum Centre of Culture and Conservation by a dirt road or path;
- Further actions implemented in 2018-2019 include: the species at risk programme; monitoring of “aguadas”; training on using SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool); programmes for forest fire management, conservation for sustainable development, and the protection and restoration of ecosystems and species at risk; education and dissemination activities; an evaluation of the functioning of the Advisory Council of the property, and conservation and intervention in archaeological structures.

At the request of the World Heritage Centre, the State Party submitted on 15 June 2020 substantive documentation on the so-called Tren Maya Project, a railway on the Yucatán peninsula that intends to offer a new rail transport service, spanning almost 1.500 kilometres, connecting the major cities and touristic areas of the Yucatan peninsula. It seeks to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants of the south and southeast of the country, in addition to connecting the main cities and tourist circuits. The Tren Maya Project aims also towards inclusive tourism to benefit communities.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies*

The preparation of an integrated Management Plan developed through a consultative process between CONANP, INAH and other stakeholders constitutes an important advance in the coordinated and integrated management of the mixed property. It is recommended that, while welcoming this important development, the Committee also reiterate its request, expressed in its Decision **38 COM 8B.16**, that the State Party provide adequate financial resources for the effective implementation of the Management Plan.

It is further noted that the State Party has been considering the Committee’s requests related to the boundaries and legal provisions of the property and its buffer zone and that, while such considerations are being undertaken, the protection of the property is already sufficiently ensured by the existing provisions. In this regard, the zoning of the property and its buffer zone proposed in the new Management Plan is noted. Notwithstanding that the zoning of the property is clearly outlined and explained, it remains unclear how the proposed zoning of the buffer zone, which includes the zone of sustainable use of ecosystems covering a wide range of activities, can provide an additional layer of protection to the property as a functional buffer zone. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the established zoning both within the property and its buffer zone in addressing the Committee’s requests.

The State Party should be commended for the numerous projects and programmes implemented during the 2018-2019 period relevant to addressing the conservation and management of the property. However, particular attention is required to safeguard the state of conservation of the excavated tunnels of the Calakmul site that concern sub-structures and exposed stucco and wall paintings. It is considered that, in principle, these should not be open to the public and that specific conservation diagnosis and intervention is required that may include the re-burial of these tunnels.

In this context, it is considered critical to strengthen procedures that allow the systematic documentation and continuous monitoring of each individual structure in the area to identify conservation issues and impacts of external factors. A conservation form that includes information on the history of excavations, photographs, illustrations, temperature readings, and humidity levels, amongst others, should be kept at the site.

ICOMOS undertook an extensive technical review of the documentation submitted by the State Party in June 2020, which focused mainly on the issues related to cultural properties in the area potentially affected by the Tren Maya project. It issued a series of recommendations to the State Party and concluded that, considering the potential impact on six World Heritage properties and six properties inscribed on the Tentative List of Mexico, appropriate impact studies should be carried out before any implementation of the project. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party, as per Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to provide further and updated details about the development of this project and its trajectory to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies. It is essential that the State Party undertake as a matter of priority both Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), including a specific assessment of

potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and of all other World Heritage properties concerned (Sian Ka'an (N), Pre-Hispanic City and National Park of Palenque (C), Pre-Hispanic City of Chichen-Itza (C), Pre-Hispanic Town of Uxmal (C), Historic Fortified Town of Campeche (C), Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forest of Calakmul (C/N)).

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.78**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.16** and **42 COM 7B.63**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for the extensive conservation and management programme that was implemented during the 2018-2019 period and includes actions that are essential to the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Welcomes the finalization of a new integrated Management Plan for the property and its buffer zone and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide adequate financial resources for its effective implementation;
5. Takes note of the zoning of the property and its buffer zone proposed in the new Management Plan and requests the State Party to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the established zoning in addressing its previous requests and to submit the results of such assessment to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies;
6. Acknowledges the State Party's assurances that the Committee's recommendations regarding the delimitation of the property and its buffer zone to include additional and relevant cultural sites are being considered, and also requests the State Party to keep it informed of any further action in this regard;
7. Recommends the State Party to strengthen documentation and monitoring procedures for all structures, and particularly the excavated tunnels for which it is recommended to develop specific conservation plans;
8. Further requests the State Party to consider the recommendations made in the July 2020 ICOMOS technical review and to submit to the World Heritage Centre updated detailed information about the Tren Maya project and its trajectory, and to ensure that all potential impacts of the project on the OUV of this and other properties in the broader region are adequately assessed through appropriate Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), as per Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and strongly requests to submit them for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as they are available, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;
9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including a specific assessment of the effectiveness of the established zoning both within the property and its buffer zone in addressing previous Committee requests, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023.

## **NATURAL PROPERTIES**

### **AFRICA**

#### **79. W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (Benin/Burkina Faso/Niger) (N 749)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

#### **80. Okavango Delta (Botswana) (N 1432)**

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List* 2014

*Criteria* (vii)(ix)(x)

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger* N/A

*Previous Committee Decisions* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/documents/>

##### *International Assistance*

Requests approved: 1 (from 2012-2017)

Total amount approved: USD 27,080

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/assistance/>

##### *UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

Total amount granted to the property: USD 150,000 from the Flanders Funds-in-Trust (2017-2021) for the community management of protected areas for conservation (COMPACT) programme in cooperation with the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme. Further support through the Flanders Funds-in-Trust (2019-2022) to the States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia to examine the feasibility of a transboundary extension of the property.

##### *Previous monitoring missions*

N/A

##### *Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports*

- Transboundary management of water resources
- Lack of wildlife monitoring programme
- Animal sanitation and diseases
- Mining exploration licenses overlapping with the buffer zone
- Management and governance
- Engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples
- Alien invasive species

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/>

##### *Current conservation issues*

On 23 March 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1432/documents/>, reporting the following:

- Exploration activities close to the buffer zone are being monitored;

- The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) is conducting a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB), with a basin-wide Environmental Monitoring Framework and hydro-meteorological, water quality, environmental and biodiversity surveys;
- A Community Based Natural Resource Management Strategy was developed to accommodate traditional resource use for livelihoods and increase local access to tourism opportunities;
- An analysis of the 2019 aerial wildlife surveys will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once available;
- Hydrological monitoring data show that 2018/19 was the driest year since 1981 because of low rainfall in the region. For 2019/20, an improvement was expected due to exceptional rainfall at the source in the Angolan highlands;
- Biological methods used to control the invasive species *Salvinia molesta* with local stakeholders seem to be successful;
- Ten out of 15 wastewater-generating facilities were non-compliant with national wastewater pollution standards and using disposal methods not permitted in Wildlife Management Areas. Nevertheless, monitoring shows that water quality in the delta is good;
- An audit of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of the cable-stayed bridge and associated approach road at Mohembo was conducted and observed numerous non-conformities.

The draft Okavango Delta Management Plan (ODMP) was submitted by the State Party on 13 April 2021.

With support from Flanders (Belgium), the State Party has convened a steering committee to review the feasibility of an extension of the property in cooperation with the States Parties of Angola and Namibia. An Action Plan was agreed but its implementation has been delayed because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Letters of exchanges between the World Heritage Centre and the States Parties of Botswana and Namibia in November 2020 clarified that oil exploration activities were approved in northeastern Namibia and northwestern Botswana within the Okavango river basin, but that the license excluded the Tsodilo World Heritage property (Botswana), and the EIA for the drilling of multiple stratigraphic test wells was shared. On 1 February 2021, the review of the EIA undertaken by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN was submitted to the State Party of Namibia. The World Heritage Centre received various petitions and letters from civil society, including Indigenous Peoples' organizations, expressing concern over the project.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The cooperation between the States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia through OKACOM is welcomed, supporting long-term protection of the property. Any development in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) leading to unsustainable water abstraction or pollution could impact the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The impact of the low rainfall in 2018/19 on water levels in the property demonstrates the importance of a basin-wide approach. The conduct of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as requested by the Committee, with a basin-wide Environmental Monitoring Framework, is an important step to achieve this.

The State Party of Botswana's leadership in exploring the possibility of a transboundary extension of the property is commendable. Inclusion of key areas of the CORB would enhance the current collaborative efforts to protect the property.

The revision of the ODMP presents an important opportunity to ensure that the protection of the OUV underpins the management objectives and to incorporate traditional resource use for livelihoods, user access rights and cultural rights as requested by the Committee, as well as other protection and management issues. The submitted draft is currently under review by IUCN. Invasive alien plants remain an important threat to the ecological integrity of the property, and control strategies and comprehensive monitoring should be included in the new ODMP.

It is concerning that no progress was reported on the requested EIA for the veterinary cordon fences as they create a major impediment to wildlife migrations.

The 2019 aerial wildlife survey results will be important for evaluating whether wildlife populations have been maintained since the previous 2012 survey and should serve as a baseline for establishing a regular monitoring programme of wildlife populations.

The numerous non-conformities observed in the audit of the EMP for the Mohembo bridge project are of concern and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to complement the EIA with a specific assessment of the potential impacts of the project on the property's OUV. Adequate measures are also required to ensure that all wastewater-generating facilities in the property comply with the legislation.

The granting of oil exploration licenses in Botswana and Namibia is of significant concern. While the licensed areas do not overlap with the property or its buffer zone, they are situated in environmentally sensitive areas of CORB, with a potential negative impact on the property in case of spills or pollution. The areas are also important dispersal routes for elephants and other wildlife. While the current activities as described in the planning documents are not likely to have a significant direct impact on the property based on their restricted scope and location away from the property, this might be a first stage towards a larger project with significant risks to the interconnected water system of the delta and the OUV, in case reserves are found. Furthermore, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre identified some gaps and concerns with the EIA, such as the need for a more detailed spatial distribution assessment of species and to ascertain the connectivity of the ecosystems. Therefore, great caution should be applied in proceeding with any stage of this project. Any potential future activities, including further exploration stages such as seismic research and drilling of stratigraphic wells should be evaluated critically, and be subject to an EIA that corresponds with international standards, including an assessment of social impacts and a review of potential impacts on the World Heritage property in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.80**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.5** and **42 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Warmly welcomes the increased cooperation between the States Parties of Botswana, Angola and Namibia through the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM), in particular the initiation of the process to conduct a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in order to assess impacts of developments in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) at the strategic level and at the landscape scale, as was requested by the Committee, and the development of a basin-wide Environmental Monitoring Framework;*
4. *Encourages the States Parties of Angola, Botswana and Namibia on their initiative to review the feasibility of a transboundary or -national extension of the property to include key areas of the CORB, which would contribute to a better protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and in particular the integrity of the property;*
5. *Reiterates the importance of an adequate protection of the CORB to ensure the long-term survival of the property and considers that any development in the watershed, which would lead to significant water abstraction or pollution, has a high potential to impact the OUV of the property;*
6. *Expresses concern about the granting of oil exploration licenses in environmentally sensitive areas within the Okavango river basin in northwestern Botswana and northeastern Namibia that could result in potential negative impact on the property in case of spills or pollution;*



7. Urges the States Parties of Botswana and Namibia to ensure that potential *further steps to develop the oil project, which include the use of new exploration techniques, are subject to rigorous and critical prior review, including through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that corresponds to international standards, including an assessment of social impacts and a review of potential impacts on the World Heritage property, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and requests that all such assessments are submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;*
8. Appreciates the efforts to revise the Okavango Delta Management Plan (ODMP) and its submission to the World Heritage Centre, and also requests the State Party to finalise the plan following IUCN's review;
9. Also appreciates the on-going efforts to control invasive alien species that threaten the ecological integrity of the property, and further requests the State Party to include control strategies and a comprehensive monitoring plan in the revised ODMP;
10. Also recalling that veterinary cordon fences create a major impediment to wildlife migrations, expresses its concern that an EIA has not yet been undertaken in this regard, and reiterates its request to the State Party to continue efforts to rationalize veterinary cordon fencing, removing them when possible;
11. Also reiterates its requests to the State Party to:
  - a) *Complement the EIA for the Mohembo bridge project with a specific assessment of the potential impacts of the construction and use of the bridge and the road on the property's OUV, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN,*
  - b) *Submit the results of the 2019 aerial wildlife surveys to the World Heritage Centre and set up a regular monitoring programme of wildlife populations using the 2019 data as a baseline,*
  - c) *Take measures to ensure that all wastewater generating facilities in the property comply with national wastewater pollution standards and avoid any effluent disposal methods that could impact the OUV of the property, ensuring regular monitoring of water quality;*
12. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022.

## **81. Simien National Park (Ethiopia) (N 9)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1978

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1996-2017

- Major declines of the Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf populations and of other large mammals
- Agricultural encroachment at the borders of the property
- Impacts of road construction through the property

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 11 (from 1978-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 397,396

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 (2012-2015) in support of community conservation programme with co-financing from Global Environment Fund (GEF) and development of the grazing pressure reduction strategy (UNESCO-Spain-Funds-in Trust and UNESCO-Netherlands-Funds-in-Trust)

#### Previous monitoring missions

2001, 2006 and 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Road construction through the property
- Power transmission line affecting exceptional natural beauty and conditions of integrity
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Agricultural encroachment at the borders of the property and crop cultivation in the property
- Growing resource-dependent, economically poor population around the national park
- Overgrazing by livestock
- Human-wildlife conflict, including fatal leopard attacks, livestock predation and crop-raiding
- Declining populations of Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and other large mammal species
- Poaching in remote areas, including of Walia ibex and Ethiopian wolf
- Impacts and risks associated with tourism development and visitation
- Management suffering from scarce human and financial resources
- Limited local participation in management and governance
- Pending Significant Boundary Modification to recognize the substantial expansion of the national park
- Uncommon precipitation and temperature patterns over recent years attributed to climate change

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 7 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/9/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The 2020-2029 General Management Plan (GMP) is now in its final draft form and will consider the newly included wildlife habitats land of the Simien Mountains National Park (SMNP);
- The implementation of the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy is continuing, with 73% of SMNP now free from livestock grazing;
- A Tourism Development Plan has been drafted to address the increasing visitor numbers;
- A draft monitoring protocol for Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and gelada has been developed and is being reviewed by stakeholders;
- Support is being provided to the relocated Gich community following International Finance Cooperation (IFC) best practices, and activities to improve community livelihoods and community tourism are ongoing through the support of the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC);
- A proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification affecting the whole of SMNP, including a new buffer zone, is being prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders and will be submitted by September 2020;
- The construction of the alternative road, which will be mostly located outside the property and SMNP, is ongoing;

- The realignment of the power transmission line is subject to further impact assessments once the road construction has been completed;
- Construction of four new lodges are being considered along the border of SMNP but has not begun. So far only the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for two of these lodges have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre. Concerning the two lodges already operating inside the property (Limalimo and Simien lodges), the State Party indicates having requested the lodge owners to revise their EIAs to be in conformity with the IUCN guidelines.

On 11 April 2019, the State Party sent a letter to the World Heritage Centre, requesting emergency support to stop fires that had been raging the property since 28 March 2019. The International Emergency Assistance Request was approved on 23 April 2019. On 31 October 2019, the State Party reported that the fires had a very high impact on the property's ericaceous forest, and that 60,000 native *Erica* trees had been planted as a restoration effort. The Emergency International Assistance will also support the preparation of a fire management strategy.

On 30 March 2020, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party, requesting more information regarding the constructions of new lodges inside the property, and requesting that an EIA following IUCN Guidelines be undertaken for all the new lodges and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The State Party has continued to make positive progress in addressing past Committee requests with support from international partners including Austrian and German Cooperation. The continued engagement with local communities and decline in the area of the property subject to livestock grazing are welcomed. However, no new information is provided on the updated grazing strategy that was previously reported by the State Party.

The revised GMP is well structured, containing six clear objectives concerning the protection of SMNP including criterion (x) values. Noting however that the property is also inscribed on the World Heritage List under criterion (vii), the draft GMP does not currently address how the aesthetic values of the property will be managed. This will become particularly important as the State Party prepares a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification to encompass all of SMNP and with plans to expand tourism. Infrastructural developments may be visible over long distances, and the proposed zonation scheme for SMNP needs to take such visual impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property into consideration.

The Tourism Development Plan is an encouraging starting point for addressing the SMNP's needs in the face of increasing visitor numbers. It identifies areas that require further strengthening and possible next steps but it does not go to the extent of putting forward a management strategy, as had been requested by the Committee. One of the next actions should therefore be to establish a Tourism Management Plan that strategically assesses how the impacts from the proposed tourism development will be monitored and managed. In identifying potential locations for new lodge developments, safeguarding the property's OUV must be at the core of decision-making.

The development and submission of a draft monitoring protocol for key species in SMNP are welcomed. It is generally well designed but it should also consider how the State Party will ensure quality control during its implementation.

EIAs for the two existing lodges (Limalimo and Simien) and for two out of the four newly proposed lodges (Angobaras and Simien Mountains) have been submitted. The remaining two EIAs should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN. It is of utmost concern that the EIAs for Angobaras and Simien Mountains lodges indicate that both are proposed inside SMNP, contrary to the Committee's previous decisions. Furthermore, it is concerning that the OUV of the property has not been fully considered in site selection or project design. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its past emphases that the State Party focus on improving existing infrastructure and developing any new infrastructure restricted to areas outside of SMNP.

The further delay on the already overdue road construction as an alternative to the existing road is noted. The State Party should be reminded to urgently submit the EIA for the part of the new road crossing SMNP, which has been requested since 2017 (Decisions **41 COM 7A.13** and **42 COM 7B.91**). An EIA for the realignment of the power transmission line should also be submitted before any activities begin, ensuring that this considers the visual and ecological impacts of the property and SMNP.

The interim report on the International Assistance describes the impact of the fires as very high. Unfortunately, there is no reference to this in the State Party's report. The State Party should be requested to provide further information on the area affected and impact on the OUV, to monitor the recovery of vegetation, and to submit the fire management strategy as soon as it is available.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.82**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7A.13** and **42 COM 7B.91**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party in responding to past Committee decisions and the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, including the submission of a draft 2020-2029 General Management Plan (GMP) for the enlarged Simien Mountains National Park, a draft monitoring protocol for the populations of Walia ibex, Ethiopian wolf and gelada, and a draft Tourism Development Plan, and requests the State Party to:
  - a) Ensure that the GMP fully considers the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property under both criteria (vii) and (x) as the primary objective of management for the Simien Mountains National Park and its buffer zone,
  - b) Integrate measures to ensure quality control in the implementation of the draft species monitoring protocol,
  - c) Develop a Tourism Management Plan to guide the monitoring and management of proposed tourism developments, and impacts from increased visitors;
4. Expresses its utmost concern that some of the new lodges are proposed inside the Simien Mountains National Park and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that all new lodge developments are located outside the boundary of Simien Mountains National Park;
5. Considers that the Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) of the proposed lodges do not sufficiently consider the OUV of the property in their respective site selection or project design, and therefore urges the State Party not to permit these developments to proceed in their current locations and also requests the State Party to submit EIAs for all proposed lodges, ensuring they are in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and in particular consider their visual impact on the property;
6. Notes with concern the high impacts of the 2019 fires on the OUV of the property and further requests the State Party to provide further information on the affected area and impact on the OUV, to monitor the recovery of vegetation, and to submit the fire management strategy to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available;
7. Also welcomes the continued implementation of the Grazing Pressure Reduction Strategy that has resulted in a decline in area grazed by livestock, and requests furthermore the State Party to ensure that the previously reported revised grazing strategy is aligned with the GMP and to submit this to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;

8. *Further welcomes* the ongoing financial and technical support from the Austrian and German Governments for the management of the property, community tourism and alternative livelihoods;
9. *Also reiterates its request* to the State Party to continue its ongoing support to the livelihoods and well-being of the relocated Gich community while ensuring that the highest standards are applied, especially in support of vulnerable households and individuals;
10. *Appreciates* the State Party's confirmation of its intention to submit a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification for the entire Simien Mountains National Park, and *further reiterates its request* to the State Party to simultaneously formalize the buffer zone and harmonize the currently differing names of the Simien Mountains National Park and the property, and *also encourages* the State Party to request technical advice from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN as needed;
11. *Notes* the further delay in completing the alternative road aiming at reducing disturbance of the existing main road in important afro-alpine habitats, and *urges again* the State Party to complete this overdue project, and to submit the EIA for the part of the new road crossing the Simien Mountains National Park to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as possible;
12. *Also appreciates* that the re-alignment of the power transmission line, which currently affects the property's exceptional natural beauty and conditions of integrity, will be subject to an EIA, and *requests moreover* the State Party to assess the visual and ecological impacts on the property and the Simien Mountains National Park, and to submit the EIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any activities begin;
13. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## **82. Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi) (N 289)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1986-2017)

Total amount approved: USD 147,423

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 in 2015 through the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme (Flanders Funds-in-Trust); USD 45,000 in 2019 through the UNESCO-Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; USD 300,000 in 2020-2021 through UNESCO/Government of Norway cooperation

### Previous monitoring missions

March/April 2014: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Illegal activities
- Invasive/alien freshwater species
- Management systems /management plan
- Surface water pollution
- Oil and gas exploration/exploitation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/>

### Current conservation issues

On 28 January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/289/documents/> and reporting as follows:

- Species monitoring is being undertaken;
- The Management Plan (MP) for the property and a fish monitoring protocol have been finalized;
- Marine and terrestrial patrols have been enhanced and an African Development Bank project will focus on boundary demarcation, patrol boat acquisition, developing sustainable livelihood strategies, and undertaking an assessment of new tourism facilities at Cape Maclear;
- Cooperation between Park authorities and various stakeholders is taking place to enhance the monitoring of the property. Currently, 25% of the revenue from the Park is allocated to the local communities;
- Pressure for farming land and fishing, with the current community fishing grounds extending up to the property boundaries, means the creation of a buffer zone for the property is very challenging;
- Human population growth in the enclave villages of the property continues to increase. Boundary inspections and terrestrial patrols are being enhanced to avoid encroachment of the areas around these villages;
- The overhead power line referred to in the previous State Party report has been confirmed as pre-existing infrastructure from the 1990s;
- Oil exploration will be carried out in blocks 2 and 3 owned by Hamra Oil Holdings (previously held by Surestream). Block 4, overlapping with the property and owned by RAKGas, is reported to have been cancelled;
- The previously reported challenges continue, including tourism development along the lakeshores, illegal use of natural resources (poaching, livestock grazing, timber and firewood collection), commercial and over-fishing, aquarium fish trade, waste management, and siltation caused by land degradation likely to adversely impact the endemic cichlids.

An IUCN led workshop on prioritizing conservation action for freshwater biodiversity in the Lake Malawi catchment, conducted in collaboration with various Ministries of Malawi, has led to the identification of 18 new Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in and surrounding the property.

A UNESCO/Netherlands Fund-in-Trust project has supported the implementation of the MP. In September 2020, a socio-economic needs assessment and consultations were conducted with the enclave and surrounding communities to delineate the property boundaries. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, key activities such as the mapping and boundary demarcation were postponed to March 2021. Additional Norwegian funding will support sustainable local fisheries.

On 14 April 2020, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting more information on the above-mentioned oil exploration in block 4. No response was received at the time of writing this report.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The enhanced patrol efforts in and around the property are appreciated but resource limitations continue to compromise overall management effectiveness. No information is provided on how management challenges are being addressed. The unsustainable fishing methods, illegal resource use, land degradation and increasing tourism development along the lakeshores require urgent intervention given their likely impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Recalling that the 2014 mission considered the development of a major hotel and tourist resort proposed for the western shores of the Cape Maclear peninsula to likely impact the property's OUV, further details should be provided on the new tourism facilities referenced in the report, and the State Party should ensure an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is undertaken and submitted to the World Heritage Centre before any decisions are taken.

Whilst taking note of the provided information on the cancellation of the oil exploration block 4, this needs to be confirmed as the project is still mentioned on the website of RAKGas. The continuation of oil exploration in blocks 2 and 3, owned by Hamra Oil and covering a large part of the lake, is highly concerning for the protection of the OUV as any accidental spills would pose a potentially severe risk to the entire lake ecosystem. It is crucial that a new EIA is developed in accordance with the highest international standards and in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, before an exploratory drilling permit is granted.

While the State Party notes that species monitoring is being undertaken, no data of recent monitoring activities has been submitted as requested by the Committee. No clarity has been provided on what is being monitored, how frequently, and what the current species' population status and trends are.

The finalization of the MP and the fish monitoring protocol is welcomed but their effective implementation is now key to assuring the protection of the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the final documents to the World Heritage Centre and ensure the necessary funding is secured for its implementation.

It is regrettable that no progress has been made on potential buffer zones around the property. The clarification given, that the community fishing grounds extend up to the property boundaries, reinforces the need for a buffer zone. The contiguity of the freshwater ecosystem including the fish species specified in the Statement of OUV, means that the protection of areas inside the property boundaries alone is insufficient to ensure the protection of the OUV. In addition, it would be important to move to more sustainable fishing practices across the entire lake. Fish stocks are being depleted by industrial fishing activities using trawlers and by the use of illegal equipment in artisanal fishing activities, including the large-scale use of mosquito nets. The financial assistance to support sustainable fisheries through the UNESCO/Government of Norway project is aimed at addressing these threats in the property.

The identification of KBAs in and around the lake provides valuable information towards addressing past Committee decisions to incorporate important conservation areas into an extended transnational serial property, in consultation with the States Parties of Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania. Taking note of many threats facing the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation, the status of oil exploration in Lake Malawi as well as the impact of unsustainable fishing practices across the entire lake on the OUV of the property and to review the possibility of a transboundary extension.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.82**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions 38 COM 7B.92 and 42 COM 7B.93 adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions, respectively,
3. Welcomes the finalization of the Management Plan and development of a fish monitoring protocol as well as the enhanced patrol efforts in and around the property.;

4. Notes with concern however, that the threats facing the property are continuing and requests the State Party to secure and allocate additional funds to ensure the full implementation of the Management Plan and provide detailed information on management activities;
5. Takes note of the information provided on the cancellation of oil exploration block 4 overlapping with the property, and also requests the State Party to confirm that no further oil exploration activities will be permitted in this block;
6. Expresses its utmost concern for the continuation of oil exploration activities in blocks 2 and 3 covering a large part of Lake Malawi, which pose a potentially severe risk to the lake ecosystem and the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and further requests the State Party to provide more details on the status of these exploration activities and to ensure that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), developed in accordance with the highest international standards and in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, is submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before exploratory drilling is permitted;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to provide further details of the proposed new tourism facilities at Cape Maclear, and ensure an EIA is conducted in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decision is taken;
8. Regrets that no monitoring data has been submitted to determine the state of conservation of key species and reiterates its request to the State Party to provide up-to-date and scientifically verifiable monitoring data;
9. Also expresses its concern on the potential impacts by industrial and illegal artisanal fishing methods on fish stocks in the lake and on the OUV of the property and notes the importance of moving towards more sustainable fishing practices in the entire lake to ensure the long-term protection of the OUV;
10. Thanks the African Development Bank and the governments of the Netherlands and Norway for their financial support to the property;
11. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to examine, in consultation with the States Parties of Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania, the feasibility of establishing a buffer zone and extending the boundaries of the property to strengthen its integrity, which also takes into consideration the new Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) designations;
12. Requests moreover the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess its state of conservation in relation to the fisheries and tourism management, law enforcement, wildlife monitoring, oil exploration and to explore the possibility of including the new KBAs as an extension to the property;
13. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.



### 83. Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary(Senegal) (N 25)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1984-1988, 2000-2006

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/25/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 8 (from 1980-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 332,493

For more details, see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/25/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 300,000 from the Government of Norway for the period 2020-2022

Previous monitoring missions

September 2000: UNESCO/IUCN/Ramsar mission; April 2004: UNESCO and IUCN participation in a multi-stakeholder workshop; May 2005: UNESCO/IUCN monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- a) Invasive species;
- b) Integrated water management system not operational and lack of hydrological monitoring;
- c) Soils salinity;
- d) Cattle grazing;
- e) Poaching and illegal fishing;
- f) Lack of management plan and sustained funding (issue resolved);
- g) Poor management capacity and constant changes in staff;
- h) Poor visitor management.

Illustrative material: see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/25/>

Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/25/documents>, which provides the following information:

- The intensification of rice cultivation near the property due to the development of hydro-agricultural infrastructures produces discharges of effluents inside the property, thus causing water pollution, the proliferation of invasive already identified species such as *Typha australis* and the appearance of others such as *Ceratophyllum demersum* and *Najas marina*;
- The area colonized by *Typha* is estimated at around 790.67 ha, almost 5% of the area of the property. On the basis of the results of studies carried out on invasive plants, actions (in particular grubbing-up) have been undertaken to limit their proliferation;
- Physico-chemical and chromatographic analyses of the property's waters revealed the presence of pesticide residues leading to accelerated eutrophication of effluent discharge areas;
- A Development and Management Plan (2017-2022) has been adopted for the property but cattle straying and illegal fishing within the property continue. The regularity of the surveillance patrols enabled the arrest of six poachers, the seizure of seven pirogues, nearly a ton of fish, and the application of transactional fines for more than a thousand heads of cattle;
- Regarding the straying of livestock, in addition to information, education and awareness raising actions carried out among communities, the directory of livestock owners has been created and enclosures have been built;

- Major development works are underway and / or planned with the support of the MAVA Foundation and Luxembourg cooperation to combat the proliferation of invasive species and create optimal ecological conditions. It is also planned to build a bund and a canal along the outer limits of the park to limit inputs related to rice cultivation and the proliferation of invasive species, demarcate the boundaries of the property, prevent the straying of livestock and develop access routes to the villages.

On 23 March 2019, the World Heritage Centre received the technical documents of the project for the construction of a bund and a canal. In its technical review of 12 March 2020, IUCN recognized the need to act to preserve the site and the value of the proposed project given the various threats to the property. It insisted on the need to ensure that the project clearly identifies and avoids any potential negative impact on the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

In addition, the World Heritage Centre, with funding from the Government of Norway, also contributes to the establishment of protective measures to mitigate the impacts of agro-industrial projects located near the property and to the strengthening of the resilience of the communities.

On 23 January 2021, the State Party reported the death of at least 750 juvenile white pelicans in the property. The results of laboratory analyses confirmed an outbreak of avian influenza. UNESCO thus organized, on 11 February 2021, a virtual meeting with the Senegalese and Mauritanian authorities in charge of the management of the property and the National Parks of Diawling (PND) and Banc d'Arquin (PNBA), as well as the representatives of the FAO, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the CMS Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the RAMSAR Convention, IUCN, the MAVA Foundation, The Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Marine Zone of West Africa (PRCM) and Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic (OMPO).

The request for Emergency Assistance to contain the epizootic and sensitize neighbouring communities was approved on 9 March 2021.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is recalled that the property was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2000 due to the proliferation of invasive species, in particular *Pistia* and *Typha*. The removal of the property from this List in 2006 was justified by the implementation of an action plan that made it possible to better control this problem. Unfortunately, it is of great concern that the accelerated development of agro-industrial projects in the buffer zone is causing pollution of the waters of the property and the exponential proliferation of several invasive species, again threatening the OUV of the property. It is crucial that the State Party take urgent actions to intercept the flow of pollutants into the watershed and define an emergency plan for the decontamination of the water.

The commitment of the State Party to address the above issues, including through the proposed Luxembourg-funded project, and to restore the ecological integrity of the property is noted with satisfaction. However, it is important that the Committee reiterates the need to ensure that this project clearly identifies and avoids any potential negative impact on the OUV of the property. UNESCO is providing financial support for the implementation of certain development works with the support of the Government of Norway.

The proliferation of agro-industrial projects in the buffer zone of the property is of great concern. It is regrettable that the World Heritage Centre has not been informed of the development of these multiple projects and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party that no new projects be developed in the vicinity of the property without an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) being carried out in order to assess the impacts on the OUV of the property, including the cumulative effects of these projects.

Noting the persistence of livestock straying and illegal fishing within the property, it is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to strengthen monitoring and management efforts and encourages it to continue the patrols and awareness-raising actions among communities, while implementing the Land Use and Allocation Plans to better control these threats. Other threats to the property mentioned in the past (sedimentation, water softening, reduction of natural periods of drying out) must also be addressed.

The avian influenza epidemic is worrying. Recognizing also the potential impacts in migration areas on a regional scale, it is recommended to apply the orientations provided by the Scientific Task Force on

Avian Influenza and Wild Birds to contain the epizootic, to work in regional and international collaboration, and to monitor and report impacts on the OUV of the property.

Furthermore, it is regrettable that the State Party has not provided any information on the results of the ecological monitoring, in particular on population trends of resident and migratory birds, and it is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to continue its efforts to improve the monitoring and protection of species characteristic of the OUV, and inform the World Heritage Centre accordingly.

In view of the threats described above, it is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, in particular the impacts on the OUV of the property of the proliferation of invasive species and water pollution linked to the multiplication of agro-industrial projects in the buffer zone of the property, and to assess whether the conditions for a new inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger are met.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.83**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 35 COM 7B.4, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),*
3. *Welcomes the education, information and awareness-raising actions initiated by the State Party and its partners with a view to better involvement of the communities in the management of the property and encourages the State Party to continue this collaboration;*
4. *Expresses its deepest concern at the proliferation of agricultural and agro-industrial projects in the buffer zone of the property resulting in pollution of the waters of the property and a new proliferation of various invasive species, which constitute a potential threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party:*
  - a) *That no new project be developed near the property without first carrying out an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and submitting it to the World Heritage Centre, for examination by IUCN, in order to assess the impacts, including cumulative ones, of these projects, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and the IUCN Advisory Note on World Heritage and Environmental Assessment,*
  - b) *To take immediate emergency measures to intercept the flow of pollutants into the watershed and define a plan for water pollution control and control of invasive species;*
5. *Takes note of the actions initiated by the State Party and its partners to improve the management of the property and combat the proliferation of invasive species, and also requests the State Party to ensure that any intervention measures taken do not threaten the OUV of the property;*
6. *Notes with satisfaction the adoption of the Development and Management Plan for the property (2017-2022), the monitoring efforts that have enabled the arrest of several poachers and the seizure of their equipment, and requests the State Party to strengthen management measures, by implementing Land Use and Allocation Plans to eradicate threats affecting the property;*

7. Expresses concern about the appearance of the epidemic of avian influenza in Senegal and Mauritania which has caused a high mortality of juvenile white pelicans within the property, and encourages the State Party and its partners to apply the orientations of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds in their efforts to contain the epizootic, and further requests the State Party to monitor the impacts on the OUV and provide a report to the World Heritage Centre;
8. Thanks the donors who continue to support the conservation of the property, in particular the Governments of Luxembourg and Norway;
9. Regrets that the State Party has not provided any information on the results of ecological monitoring, in particular on trends in populations of resident and migratory birds, and further requests that it continue its efforts to improve the monitoring and protection of species characteristic of the OUV, and to inform the World Heritage Centre accordingly;
10. Additionally requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the state of conservation of the property, in particular the impacts of the proliferation of invasive species and water pollution related to the multiplication of agro-industrial projects in the buffer zone of the property on the OUV of the property, and assess whether the conditions for a new inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger are met;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022.

#### **84. Cape Floral Region Protected Areas (South Africa) (N 1007bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1007/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1007/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

##### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Invasive species
- Fires
- Climate change
- Need to finalize a property-wide integrated management plan
- Strengthen governance arrangements to improve coordination

- Ensure adequate financial resources for the property's management

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1007/>

Current conservation issues

On 17 January 2020 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1007/documents/>, and provides the following updates:

- The three management authorities of the property receive and generate sufficient funds to ensure the sustainable operation and management of the property;
- Management Plans for four out of the 13 clusters are complete, with the rest underway. As reported previously, the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) will be developed once all the individual Management Plans have been completed;
- The development of an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) has now been initiated and will be completed by 30 November 2020. The EMF will propose additional buffer zones around each cluster and will guide the future development of a Spatial Development Framework (SDF) which will cover strategic spatial planning and guide land use in the area. The Action Plan for the implementation of the EMF will be finalized by January 2021;
- Permanent housing has been identified for the members of the Imizamo Yethu community who were affected by fire and floods;
- National and provincial drought declarations for the Western Cape Province ended in June/July 2018 and water supplies have since improved significantly. The relevant Directive which would have allowed the city of Cape Town to drill emergency boreholes to alleviate the drought has therefore been withdrawn. In general, the management authorities take into consideration any potential impacts on the property in terms of how and where drilling takes place;
- On 19 June 2020, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre, the EIAs of the proposed Interpretative Centre at the Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve component of the property. The EIAs have been sent to IUCN and are currently being reviewed.

On 3 September 2019, the World Heritage Centre transmitted third party information regarding concerns over the management of the Table Mountain National Park component of the property. The State Party, at the time of drafting this report, has not provided a response to the World Heritage Centre yet.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is welcomed that sustainable financing arrangements are in place for the effective management of the property. This is a considerable achievement since 2015, when the Committee expressed concerns over longstanding shortfalls in financial resources. It is also appreciated that the State Party has cancelled the permission to drill boreholes as well as the assurances that impacts on World Heritage properties will be assessed in case of any potential borehole drilling. It is noted that the development of an EMF has started, which aims to strengthen the protection of the property.

The progress made towards developing Management Plans for the 13 clusters of the property is appreciated but the ongoing delay in completing all Plans, and hence the implication on the IMP development, is of concern. Recalling again the original request of the Committee to submit a property-wide management strategy by 1 December 2017, it is recommended that the Committee urge once again the State Party to expedite the processes to the greatest extent possible. It is also pointed out that the IMP should ensure a common management framework and objectives for the entire property in line with the defined Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) so it would seem important that this overall management framework is defined before the individual management plans are finalized.

The Committee's last Decision pertaining to the housing needs of the communities affected by the fire outbreak was to ensure no development took place inside the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to confirm that the permanent housing identified for the resettlement is outside of the property boundaries and that there will be no impacts on the OUV of the property.

Similarly, details on the proposed Interpretative Centre at one of the components of the property are currently limited. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure the EIA is conducted in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note and to submit a copy to the World Heritage

Centre for review by IUCN before any decision is taken that may be difficult to reverse in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The State Party reports that an EIA has been undertaken and was submitted to the World Heritage Centre as an Annex B of its report. However, this annex was not found in the annexes submitted. Therefore, it is important to request the State Party to submit the EIA conducted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decision is taken that may be difficult to reverse in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*

On 18 April 2021, a fire broke out on the edge of Table Mountain National Park, one of the components of the property. According to media reports, the fire only affected a small part of the Park but the authorities are still assessing the extent of the damage.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.84**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.94**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the confirmation that a sustainable financing mechanism is now in place for all three management authorities of the property to ensure its effective management;
4. Notes with concern the delay in finalizing the management plans for all 13 clusters of the property, which further delays the development of the requested Integrated Management Plan (IMP), that should ensure a common management framework and objectives for the entire property in line with the defined Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and urges again the State Party to accelerate the process;
5. Appreciates that the development of an Environmental Management Framework has now begun, which will propose additional buffer zones around each cluster and will guide the future development of a Spatial Development Framework which will cover strategic spatial planning and guide land use in the area;
6. Notes with concern the fires which affected the Table Mountain component of the property and requests the State Party to report on the impacts of the fire on the state of conservation of the property;
7. Requests the State Party to clarify the location of the permanent housing identified for the resettlement of the communities affected by fire and flooding, and demonstrate that there will be no impact on the OUV of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to ensure the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Interpretative Centre at Baviaanskloof Nature Reserve component of the property, which was mentioned in the State Party report, to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decision is taken that may be difficult to reverse in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

## 85. Rwenzori Mountains National Park (Uganda) (N 684)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2004

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1995-2006)

Total amount approved: USD 191,739

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January 2003 and December 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining (Kilembe mine)
- Staffing and budgetary deficiencies (issue resolved)
- Degradation of buffer zone (issue resolved)
- Climate change
- Management systems/ management plan
- Impacts of tourism (cable car)
- Fires

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 October 2019, the State Party submitted the state of conservation report. A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission subsequently visited the property from 7 to 19 December 2019. Both reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/684/documents/>. In its report, the State Party informs the following:

- Through the Greater Virunga Transboundary Collaboration, quarterly meetings between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and eight coordinated boundary patrols were undertaken to enforce protection of the property and the adjacent Virunga National Park in DRC;
- There has not been any mining activity within the property for 50 years. The March/April 2019 water quality tests on five rivers revealed no contamination from the old Kilembe mines inside or outside of the property. However, a high level of turbidity has been recorded outside of the property due to agricultural activities;
- The implementation of the General Management Plan (2016-2026) (GMP) is ongoing, including activities to engage local communities in the conservation of the property and increasing patrol efforts. Payment for Water Services (PWS) scheme, climate change mitigation measures and activities to conserve the water catchment have been developed in collaboration with WWF and other partners;
- Tourism infrastructures have been improved, such as opening of new trails and construction of board walks to protect vegetation, eco-san toilets as well as Margherita monument at Margherita Peak. Tourist numbers have increased from 3,632 in 2017 to 4,839 in 2018;
- The cable car project is not yet implemented. Funding for the feasibility study is not yet secured, however a pre-feasibility study was completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 15 October 2019;

- An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken for the Sindila and Nyamwamba Hydropower projects in the vicinity of the property. The identified mitigation measures in place are monitored in order to avoid any negative impact on the ecosystem;
- The Final Elephant Census Report dated April 2020, submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 4 May 2020, indicate that only 13 elephants remain in the property. Funds for the planned 2019/2020 chimpanzee census are available.

On 8 June 2020, the State Party submitted an Emergency Assistance request to reconstruct infrastructures that were extensively damaged inside the property following floods and landslides due to torrential rainfall in May 2020.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The December 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission noted with appreciation the progress made in implementing the 2016-2026 GMP. The mission concluded that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has been maintained but noted that not all the attributes that underpin the OUV have been fully integrated into the GMP. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to revise the GMP to fully address the OUV of the property.

The continued closure of the Kilembe mine is appreciated but, noting with concern its potential impact on the OUV of the property if it is re-opened, the State Party should ensure that any decision on a possible reopening is preceded by an EIA conducted in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN. While the State Party has conducted surface water quality monitoring and found no contamination, the mission recommended that samples be taken also from groundwater, which is the source of domestic water supply in Uganda.

It is appreciated that the State Party submitted the prefeasibility report of the cable car project proposed inside the property. However, the mission considered that such a large-scale project would impact both the scenic value of the property as well as its fragile ecosystems and biodiversity, and hence the project would seriously affect the OUV of the property. A decision to proceed with the project would constitute an ascertained danger, and a case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to abandon this project. Alternative sustainable tourism options should be considered to promote the positive protection and management of the OUV of the property that is not only focused on mass tourism.

The mission noted the increasing number of hydropower projects in the vicinity of the property, which individually may have limited impacts. However, in the absence of an OUV-specific assessment in the EIAs and considering the possible combined effects of numerous infrastructures, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rwenzori catchment, which would include an assessment of the indirect and cumulative impacts on the OUV arising from the existing and planned small scale run-of-river hydropower infrastructures.

The results of the recent elephant survey raise alarming questions on the viability of the population, which is a key attribute of the OUV. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to urgently assess the viability of the remaining elephant population within the property, which is a key attribute of the OUV, and develop an action plan for its conservation, which includes re-establishing the wildlife corridors between the property and the neighbouring National Parks in Uganda and the DRC.

Furthermore, a wildlife monitoring plan is needed to ensure the regular monitoring of key wildlife species as recognised in the Statement of OUV for the property, which extend beyond elephant and chimpanzee. Such a plan should follow standardized census methodologies that are repeatable to allow the monitoring of population trends.

The State Party's intention to reconstruct the infrastructures that were damaged by a natural disaster in an environmentally sensitive manner in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN is appreciated. The impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property should be monitored closely and the development of a disaster risk management plan and climate change adaptation plan under the Emergency Assistance fund should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once it is available.



**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.85**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.95**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama,2018),
3. Notes with satisfaction the conclusion of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property has been maintained;
4. Notes however with concern the assessment of the Reactive Monitoring mission that the proposed cable car project would impact both the scenic value of the property, as well as its fragile ecosystems and biodiversity, and if approved, would constitute a clear case of ascertained danger to the OUV, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines and therefore, urges the State Party not to further pursue this project;
5. Expresses concern about the results of the 2019 elephant census raising questions on the viability of the population and also urges the State Party to assess the viability of the remaining elephant population within the property and to develop an action plan for its conservation, which includes re-establishing the wildlife corridors between the property and the neighbouring National Parks in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
6. Notes the increasing number of hydropower projects in the vicinity of the property and requests the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Rwenzori water catchment, including the property, to assess the indirect and cumulative impacts on the OUV arising from the existing and planned small scale run-of-river hydropower infrastructures and to ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for any future small scale hydropower development proposed in the catchment of the property, fully assess the potential impacts in relation to the OUV in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
7. Also requests the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre about any plans to reopen the Kilembe mine, and that a detailed EIA, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, be carried out and submitted to the World Heritage Centre before taking any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
8. Further requests the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2019 mission, in particular to:
  - a) *Revise the Tourism Strategy for the property to ensure that it fully considers the protection of its OUV and prioritize low impact tourism activities that utilize existing infrastructures and facilities,*
  - b) *Revise the General Management Plan to fully address the OUV of the property, and ensure coordination with other strategies and studies, including the requested tourism strategy and SEA,*
  - c) *Develop and implement a wildlife monitoring plan to ensure the regular monitoring of key wildlife species as recognized in the Statement of OUV for the property. Such a plan should follow standardized census methodologies that is repeatable to allow the monitoring of population trends;*

9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to monitor the impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property and submit a disaster risk management plan and climate change adaptation plan to the World Heritage Centre once it is available;*
10. *Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **86. Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1981

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1989-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 59,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

November 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Potential impacts of a hydro-electric project in Kenya
- Reduced and degraded water resources
- Water infrastructure
- Potential impact of optical cables' installation
- Air transport infrastructure
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Illegal activities, including poaching

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/>

### Current conservation issues

On 3 January 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/156/documents>, with the following information:

- A Technical Committee meeting of experts was held in April 2018 in the framework of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) to take into consideration the concerns raised by UNESCO on the proposed dams in the Mara River Basin in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. It reviewed the feasibility studies that were conducted by The Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) on the proposed dams;
- Through the development of a Joint Water Allocation Plan (JWAP) for the Mara Basin the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya will avoid water use conflict and mitigate detrimental effects to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of both the property and the Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage property. It will be based on the existing Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for Kenya and the WAP currently under development for the United

Republic of Tanzania, taking into account the results of the Environmental Flow Assessment, which is currently being finalized with support from NELSAP;

- The new Management Plan (2014-2024) for the property was endorsed by Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA's) Board of Trustees in June 2017;
- A feasibility study and preliminary design was completed for the "Lake Eyasi Route" of the Serengeti Southern Bypass road. The draft Route Option Selection Report has been submitted to the Tanzania National Roads Agency and a decision for the preferred route option has been taken;
- The Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan for the period 2013-2030 was completed in 2013 and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) approved in 2014. The Master Plan foresees no major infrastructure development within the property;
- The State Party confirms that the stretch of the northern road crossing the Serengeti National Park from Tabora B to Klein's gate in the property will remain under the management of TANAPA and will be maintained as a gravel road;
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Belabela Lodge has been undertaken and was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in February 2019;
- The process to include Speke Gulf into the park is progressing. Affected communities will be granted compensation. Once the process is concluded, a boundary modification will be submitted in line with the provisions in the *Operational Guidelines*;

A joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission was planned in March 2020, but was postponed because of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The planned dam projects in the Mara River basin in Kenya remain a serious concern, as the water of the Mara River and its tributaries are vital for the survival of the wildlife in the property, to maintain the ecological functioning of the wider Serengeti ecosystem (including the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya) and the OUV of both the property and the Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage property. It is encouraging that the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya are working on a transboundary JWAP for the Mara River basin and it is crucial that this ensures the permanent character of the Mara River, taking into account potential changes in rainfall patterns in the region as a result of climate change. The State Party report unfortunately does not provide an update on the current status of the different dam projects.

The Reactive Monitoring mission remains a key opportunity to further discuss the developments in the Mara River basin with both States Parties and LVBC and is therefore pressing. In preparation of the mission, it is recommended that the Committee request the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to provide an update on the status of all dam projects in the Mara River basin, and not to make any decisions on infrastructure development that could affect water flow of the Mara River before the JWAP is agreed and the impacts on the OUV of the property are assessed.

The progress made towards expanding the National Park to include Speke Gulf is welcomed, thereby creating a wildlife corridor facilitating permanent access to the water of Lake Victoria, which could be crucial in the event of a drought. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre updated on this effort.

It is noted that the 2014-2024 Management Plan has been approved and it is recommended that the Plan be submitted before the start of the mission. It is regrettable that the State Party did not submit the Route Option Selection Report and relevant documents pertaining to the Southern Bypass Road, or the SEA for the 2013-2030 Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan as requested by the Committee. It is important that these documents are submitted as soon as possible in preparation for the called for mission. The confirmation by the State Party that no "major infrastructure" [sic] is planned in the property until at least 2030 is noted.

While the project brief for the Belabela Lodge stated that the project will be in the 'low-use zone', the EIA now categorizes it to be in the 'high-use zone'. Both documents contain the same map of the project location however, so clarification is needed on whether the zonation of the property was changed in the current Management Plan and how this contributes to ensuring the protection of the OUV. Although the EIA notes that the permanent lodge will be constructed at an average altitude of 1.340 m and is therefore

unlikely to affect migrating ungulates, noting that there are a number of other tourist camps nearby, there is a need to assess the cumulative impact of tourism infrastructures on other wildlife species before making a decision on the project.

While noting the State Party's statement on the northern road, it is crucial that it upholds its 2011 commitment, as reflected in Decision **35 COM 7B.7**, that the road through the property will be reserved mainly for tourism and administrative purposes.

It should also be noted that a meeting was organized in Kenya in March 2020, in which IUCN participated in, to explore the nomination of the "The African Great Rift Valley - The Maasai Mara", included on the Tentative List of Kenya since 2010 and which is contiguous with the property. A potential nomination of Maasai Mara should therefore be strongly encouraged as a transboundary extension to the property and it is recommended that the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya undertake further consultation on this project and seek advice from the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee request for the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to be undertaken as soon as the sanitary situation allows in order to assess the threats posed by the series of proposed dams upstream of the property, and any other developments that may have potential impacts on the property. The mission should also follow up on previous decisions and mission recommendations and review the 2014-2024 Management Plan as well as the documents and decisions related to the Southern Bypass Road.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.86**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7B.7**, **38 COM 7B.94** and **42 COM 7B.96** adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Reiterates its utmost concern about the proposed dam projects upstream of the property in the Mara river basin, which could have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Serengeti National Park and Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley World Heritage properties;*
4. *Welcomes the efforts of the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to start developing a transboundary Joint Water Allocation Plan (JWAP) for the Mara Basin and notes that it is crucial that this plan ensures the permanent character of the Mara River is retained, taking into account potential changes in rainfall patterns in the region including as a result of climate change;*
5. *Requests the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to submit to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, and before the Reactive Monitoring mission takes place, an update on the status of all dam projects in the Mara River basin and urges them not to make any decisions on infrastructure development that could affect the water flow into the Mara River before the JWAP is agreed and the impacts on the OUV of the property are thoroughly assessed;*
6. *Also welcomes the progress made to expand the National Park to include the ecologically important Speke Gulf, and that a boundary modification will be submitted upon completion in line with the provisions in the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit the various documents requested in Decision **42 COM 7B.96** and also urges the State Party to submit the following documents as soon as possible, and before the Reactive Monitoring mission:*

- a) *The approved 2014-2024 Management Plan for the property, including details of any changes to the zonation of the property,*
  - b) *The Route Option Selection Report and the feasibility study and preliminary design, including a map of the proposed alignments,*
  - c) *The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Comprehensive Transport and Trade System Development Master Plan;*
8. *Takes note that the State Party will maintain the northern road traversing the property as a gravel road under Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) management but also requests the State Party to confirm its previous commitment to reserve the road mainly for tourism and administrative purposes (Decision **35 COM 7B.7**) and to abandon the construction of the proposed northern highway (Decision **38 COM 7B.94**);*
  9. *Also takes note of the confirmation by the State Party that no “major infrastructure” is planned in the property until at least 2030, and further requests the State Party to ensure that the cumulative impact of any development, including tourism infrastructure is assessed before they making decisions on individual projects;*
  10. *Notes with appreciation the invitation from the State Party for a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, and the cooperation of the State Party of Kenya in the organization of the mission, however, also regrets that the mission was postponed due to global pandemic concerns and reiterates its request that the mission, be organized as soon as the sanitary situation allows and:*
    - a) *Ensure it also meets with representatives of the State Party of Kenya to assess threats posed by the dams proposed upstream of the property in Kenya,*
    - b) *Review the 2014-2024 Management Plan,*
    - c) *Analyze the documents and decisions related to the Southern Bypass Road,*
    - d) *Assess any other developments that may impact the property’s OUV;*
  11. *Encourages continued dialogue between the States Parties of the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya, with the support of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN, on the opportunities to extend the property with the contiguous transboundary landscape of “The African Great Rift Valley – The Maasai Mara” (Kenya) on the Tentative List;*
  12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## ARAB STATES

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

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 35,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 150,000 in the framework of the World Heritage Centre's Marine Programme

#### Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2003, 2004, 2013: World Heritage Centre missions; 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan: Lack of adequate management systems/management plan
- Human Resources/ Financial Resources: Insufficient management capacity and resources
- Illegal fishing/collecting aquatic resources: Illegal fishing and Mechanical shellfish harvesting
- Marine Transport Infrastructure
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure: Tourism and increased accessibility due to the new Nouadhibou-Nouakchott road
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Housing
- Illegal activities
- Mining
- Oil and gas: Oil exploitation
- Renewable energy facilities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/506/documents/>, which provides the following information:

- The management of the property has been strengthened, in particular with the increase in local actions and infrastructure, the involvement of the Scientific Council of the Banc d'Arguin (CSBA), the resident populations and technical and financial partners;
- Monitoring and consultation on fishing have developed. The capture of selachians has decreased and the State Party commits to ban it by the end of 2020;
- A management efficiency chart for the Banc d'Arguin National Park (PNBA) was designed and a first assessment carried out;

- Oil explorations are being carried out by Shell EPM in the C10 and C19 marine oil blocks near the property and have been subject to an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) evaluated by the CSBA. The State Party has committed to transmit a new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to the World Heritage Centre before a possible operational phase is launched in the C7 oil block;
- Concerning the extension of the Tasiast gold mine planned for 2021, studies on the hydrogeological impact and on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the water catchments of the PNBA have been carried out and assessed by the CSBA. A partnership between PNBA and the mine manager (Tasiast Mauritanie Limited S.A.- TMLSA) was signed to preserve the OUV of the property;
- A Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) of the development of the town of Chami, where gold mining activities are increasing, is being finalized;
- The relocation of villages threatened by climate change has been abandoned in favour of a project for the Green Climate Fund aimed at “improving the resilience of indigenous populations and the ecosystems of the Banc d’Arguin”;
- The process of classifying the PNBA as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) has not seen significant progress but should be relaunched;
- A study on the evaluation of ecosystem services of the PNBA was published;
- A 2020-2024 development and management plan is being drawn up;
- A strategy on ecotourism in PNBA has been developed;
- The State Party wishes to extend the attributes of criteria (ix) and (x) and consider other criteria;

In June 2020, the State Party submitted the SESA of the development of the town of Chami. On 11 February 2021, a meeting was held between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN to discuss the strategy regarding ecotourism and the development of the town of Chami following the assessments by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN. The authorities in charge of the management of PNBA also took part in a technical meeting held on the same day with the State Party of Senegal and the authorities in charge of the management of the Diawling National Park (PND), organized by the World Heritage Centre and other organizations regarding the discovery of outbreaks of avian influenza in the PND and the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) (PNOD) (see also the state of conservation report of the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary).

In February 2021, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre the Terms of Reference of a SESA for a proposed exploration project (seismic program, multi-beam echo sounder (MBES) and coring) in the Mauritanian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The State Party has made significant efforts towards the conservation of the property and it is recommended that the State Party continue these efforts, notably the finalization and implementation of the 2020-2024 development and management plan.

The abandonment of the village relocation project and the project to improve the resilience of ecosystems and local communities are welcomed, notably the proposed inclusive and participatory approach. The State Party is encouraged to continue to develop ecotourism as an alternative resource, ensuring strong involvement of indigenous communities.

The measures taken to protect endangered species, in particular regarding shark fishing and the establishment of sustainable fishing, are welcomed. However, fishing for other species is increasing and needs to be monitored to ensure its sustainability. The direct and indirect impacts of fishing, such as port development and their effects, need to be monitored and managed effectively.

Noting the different reported threats to the OUV of the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue to put in place the necessary measures to strengthen their monitoring and management, including intensifying efforts for waste management.

The SESA on the development of the town of Chami raises numerous and significant potential threats to the property and its OUV, requiring strict control of the development, implementation of mitigation measures or prohibition of certain activities. The approval of projects that could threaten the OUV of the

property must be prevented. It should be noted with concern the conclusions of the CSBA on the gold mining activity in Chami and its potential impact on the OUV of the property and it should be recommended that the State Party implement the recommendations, in particular on the removal of gold panning sites from the PNBA borders and treatment of contaminated sludge.

Regarding the possible designation of the property as a PSSA, the State Party is encouraged to transmit to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) the national navigation data as soon as possible in order to explore the technical feasibility of a possible designation, prior to a nomination. If, however, a PSSA designation proved unsuccessful, it is recommended that the Committee should encourage the State Party to use all national tools to mitigate any risk of maritime traffic around the property.

It is regrettable that the ESIA of the oil exploration of block C19 was not transmitted prior to operations, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. The reservations expressed by the CSBA on the insufficiency of environmental data and the real risks on the OUV of the property in the event of exploitation should be considered. It is therefore crucial that a new ESIA is carried out in accordance with international standards and good practices and, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, that it be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation before authorizing the transition to an operational phase.

With regard to the ESIA for a multi-block exploration project, the Terms of Reference should be revised to ensure that the ESIA is consistent with the principles of the IUCN World Heritage advise note on Environmental Assessment, including specific assessment of potential impacts on the OUV of the property and consideration of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts.

Regarding the water extraction field for the Tasiast gold mine, studies show that no threat to OUV caused by water extraction has been identified. The CSBA's reservations on these studies and the request to limit water withdrawals as a precaution are noted. As an extension of the cooperation agreement between PNBA and TMLSA, it is recommended that the State Party consider undertaking a larger-scale strategic technical assessment of the hydrological system in relation to the property.

The discovery of outbreaks of avian influenza in PND and PNOD is worrying. Although to date no cases have been found in the property, it is important to closely monitor the bird populations and implement the guidelines of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds to contain the outbreak, in close cooperation with the Senegalese authorities.

Finally, the potential addition of new criteria should be the subject of a new nomination, in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Operational Guidelines. The State Party is invited to engage in a dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN with a view to the potential integration of new attributes that could contribute to the OUV.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.87**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.98**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the efforts made and requests it to pursue them, in particular by finalizing and implementing the 2020-2024 development and management plan, which should be transmitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination;*
4. *Welcomes the abandonment of the relocation project for villages threatened by climate change and the development of an alternative project aimed at "improving the resilience of indigenous populations and the ecosystems of the Banc d'Arguin", as well as the State Party's efforts to develop sustainable community ecotourism respecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
5. *Welcoming the measures taken to protect endangered species, in particular concerning shark fishing and the implementation of sustainable fishing practices, and nevertheless*



*taking note of the various actual and potential threats to the OUV of the property reported by the State Party, also requests it to continue and strengthen its monitoring and management, including fishing, in particular within the framework of the 2020-2024 development and management plan;*

6. *Notes with concern that the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) on the development of the town of Chami raises numerous and significant potential threats to the property and its OUV, requiring strict control of the development, implementation of mitigation measures or prohibition of certain activities and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that any development in the town of Chami is first subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage advise note on Environmental Assessment before any decision of approval;*
7. *Further requests the State Party not to approve a development that could have a negative impact on the OUV of the property and urges the State Party to follow the recommendations of the Banc d'Arguin Scientific Council (CSBA), including on the removal of gold mining sites from the borders of the Banc d'Arguin National Park and on the treatment of contaminated sludge and waste in order to avoid their dissemination in the property;*
8. *Regrets that the State Party has not yet transmitted to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) the national navigation data required to consider a possible designation of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), and requests furthermore the State Party to send it as soon as possible in order to explore the technical feasibility of the possible designation, before submitting a final application;*
9. *Also regrets that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the oil exploration project of block C19 near the property was not transmitted to the World Heritage Centre before the start of operations, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and requests moreover the State Party to:*
  - a) *ensure the implementation of the mitigation measures identified by the CSBA to avoid any indirect impact on the OUV of the property during the exploration phase,*
  - b) *undertake a new ESIA respecting international standards and good practices before authorizing to proceed to an operational phase to assess the impacts of the OUV of the property, in accordance with the IUCN World Heritage advise note on Environmental Assessment, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review, in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;*
  - c) *ensure that the IUCN evaluation of the Terms of Reference for an ESIA for a proposed exploration project in the Mauritanian Exclusive Economic Zone is taken into account;*
10. *Considering the location of the water extraction field of the Tasiast mine, the studies on the potential hydrogeological impacts and on the OUV of the property and the reservations made by the CSBA also requests moreover the State Party to undertake a larger-scale strategic technical assessment of the hydrological system in relation to the property;*
11. *Also notes with concern the outbreaks of avian influenza in the Diawling National Park and the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary (Senegal) and also requests furthermore the State Party to closely monitor the bird populations and implement the guidance provided by the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds to contain the epizootic and avoid any outbreaks in the property, in close cooperation with the State Party of Senegal;*

12. *Recalls that the addition of possible new criteria would require the presentation of this request as a new nomination, in accordance with Paragraph 166 of the Operational Guidelines, and the application of procedures specific to a new nomination, and invites the State Party to engage in dialogue with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on the issue of the attributes;*
13. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, 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 45th session in 2022.*

## **88. Socotra Archipelago (Yemen) (N 1263)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2008

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 in 2017)

Total amount approved: USD 75,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

December 2012: IUCN mission; June 2014: IUCN/Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / management plan
- Legal frameworks
- Governance
- Buildings and development
- Ground transport infrastructure: road network
- Biological resource use/modification
- Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species: absence of adequate biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of invasive alien species
- Livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animals
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Solid waste: primarily in and around main settlements
- Civil unrest: unrest inhibiting management and access of international experts and capacity building support
- Climate change and severe weather events: cyclones

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2020 the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1263/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Political unrest in the country has created exceptionally difficult conditions and resulted in limited management capacity and funding;
- Changes were made to the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2019 but no details are provided;
- Climate change, plastic pollution and exotic species threats remain a challenge. Plastic pollution is increasing in the coastal Development Zone; awareness raising and management actions are underway;
- In cooperation with international partners, activities are planned to address key challenges of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) management, restoration activities for native species, biodiversity monitoring, awareness campaigns and assessment of protected area management. A 3-year endemic tree replanting project has been planned, commencing in 2020. Replanting activities are addressing landslides linked to climate change and overgrazing;
- Prioritized actions taken to address Committee Decisions from 2008-2019 as well as priority future actions include:
  - Management planning and reform of EPA Socotra to address IAS, sustainable terrestrial and marine resource management, and unsustainable development;
  - Revision of the 2000 Conservation Zoning Plan (CZP) is underway through the United Nations Environment Programme - Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF) project co-implemented by EPA;
  - 2016-2019 IAS activities include exotic species management, a compilation of all exotic species, development of a management plan and awareness raising. Capacity constraints limit enforcement;
  - Sustainable financing and capacity constraints continue to limit management including the establishment of a World Heritage management authority, biodiversity monitoring system and tourism strategy;
  - No uncontrolled developments have been recorded in sensitive areas and authorities are in dialogue with developers regarding uncontrolled developments in the buffer zone, however challenges are noted as a result of the economic crisis and limited enforcement capacity. The implementation of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) is constrained by funding and capacity;
  - Pilot activities were implemented in collaboration with UNEP-GEF, Friends of Socotra and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) to reduce impacts of overgrazing and wood collection.

Despite invitations from the State Party, the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, requested by the Committee since 2016, as well as the technical workshop that was envisaged to follow the mission, could not be undertaken due to security and logistical issues.

In September 2019, UNESCO and Friends of Socotra launched the Connect 2 Socotra Campaign to raise awareness of Socotra's rich heritage. Activities included a series of animated awareness videos initiated by the UNESCO Office for the Gulf Countries and Yemen, including a COVID-19 video released in Socotri language in 2020, and plans for further videos.

In May 2020, UNESCO received a letter from the State Party raising urgent concerns over clashes launched by the Southern Transitional Council (STC) against local authorities, and other threats at the property, and requesting the mission be undertaken as soon as possible.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The State Party's commitment to strengthening management measures in collaboration with international partners, in spite of significant capacity constraints due to ongoing insecurity in Yemen, is recognized and welcome.

The report provides an overview of completed and planned management actions. However, also considering that the Reactive Monitoring mission requested by the Committee in particular since 2018 to review whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger has not taken place, the overall state of conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) remain unclear. The effective management of the property continues to be

affected by insecurity in mainland Yemen, with concerning clashes on Socotra in May 2020, and a lack of sustainable financing and capacity continue to constrain fundamental management measures. The reported negative impact of climate change, plastic pollution and IAS also remain an ongoing concern. Efforts to address IAS are welcome, however the effectiveness of implemented management measures in relation to OUV remains unclear. Recalling the high levels of endemism on Socotra, it is worrying that enforcement of IAS measures at the island's borders remains constrained by limited management capacity and its continuation is dependent on the renewal of project funding. A strategic biodiversity monitoring system to monitor the natural values of, and threats to, the property, as well as a World Heritage management authority, remain to be established. Monitoring efforts should be facilitated by harnessing information-sharing and collaboration with the various scientific organisations undertaking research on Socotra.

Whilst noting the information that no violations of uncontrolled developments were recorded in sensitive areas and authorities are engaging with developers in the buffer zone, the status of developments both within and outside the property, including Delisha beach and Serin Lagoon, remains unclear. Furthermore, the confirmation that developments continue in the buffer zone without adequate impact assessment due to funding and capacity constraints of authorities to regulate these, and that further capacity is required to address coastal developments, is highly concerning. The review of the CZP could provide an opportunity to strengthen the protection of the buffer zone and the protection provisions of the property, to halt unsustainable use of natural resources, and promote sustainable land and sea management.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to halt all projects that potentially impact the OUV of the property, both within the property and buffer zone, to ensure that no new developments are allowed without an adequate assessment of impacts on the OUV, and to ensure that appropriate environmental controls are implemented. It is further recommended to request a map of all new developments that have been constructed in the property and its buffer zone since inscription.

In light of the continuing threats to the OUV of the property, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission be undertaken as soon as possible, to assess the overall state of conservation of the property and to determine whether its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger is warranted.

Recalling the State Party's intention to hold a technical workshop following the mission, it is recommended to request the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to facilitate a technical workshop to bring together key technical stakeholders to systematically review the state of conservation, threats, and capacity to manage the property, as well as provide technical guidance for the protection and management of its OUV.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.88**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.100** and **43 COM 7B.1**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's ongoing commitment to strengthen management measures in collaboration with international partners in spite of significant capacity constraints due to ongoing insecurity in Yemen;*
4. *Noting with concern the clashes in Socotra in May 2020, expresses its utmost concern about the continued impact of insecurity in mainland Yemen on the overall management capacity of the property;*
5. *Acknowledges the continued efforts to manage Invasive Alien Species (IAS) but notes that the effectiveness of implemented management measures in relation to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remains unclear and, also recalling*

the high level of endemism in the property and the potentially devastating impacts of IAS on its OUV, requests the State Party to further strengthen the capacity to enforce biosecurity measures;

6. Taking note of the information provided by the State Party that no violation of uncontrolled developments has been recorded in sensitive areas and that authorities are engaging with developers in the buffer zone, however also notes with concern that development continues in the buffer zone in the absence of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) due to enforcement capacity constraints, and urges the State Party to:
  - a) Halt any ongoing development in the property or buffer zone that may have a potential impact on the OUV of the property and refrain from allowing further development until the potential impact on the OUV has been assessed, in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and the assessments submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
  - b) Provide a map of all new developments that have been constructed in the property and its buffer zone since inscription,
  - c) Evaluate the impacts on OUV of existing infrastructure developments that have not undergone EIAs and submit the results to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in order to consider an appropriate response to any such impacts,
  - d) Ensure that appropriate environmental standards to regulate activities in the property and its buffer zone are incorporated into the updated Conservation Zoning Plan and that their enforcement is ensured;
7. Reiterates its concern that insufficient information is provided to determine the current state of conservation of the property's OUV;
8. Reiterates its utmost concern about the multiple reported threats to the OUV of the property including uncontrolled development, unsustainable use of natural resources, climate change, plastic pollution, lack of sustainable funding and the absence of adequate biosecurity measures to avoid the introduction of IAS, and considers that all these factors represent a potential danger to the OUV of the property;
9. Regrets that the invited joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property could not yet be undertaken due to the ongoing security situation in Yemen and logistical constraints, and reiterates its requests that the mission take place as soon as possible, to assess the current state of conservation of the property, in particular in relation to the above-mentioned threats, and to determine whether the property meets the conditions for inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
10. Further recalling the State Party's intention to hold a technical meeting following the mission focused on how to ensure the protection of the property's OUV while also promoting appropriate sustainable development for the people of Socotra, also requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to facilitate a technical meeting with the Yemeni authorities, IUCN and relevant stakeholders to identify priorities for the protection and management of the OUV of the property.
11. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022, **with a view to considering, in case of the confirmation of**

***potential or ascertained danger to its Outstanding Universal Value, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### 89. Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (Australia) (N 368bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/368/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/368/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (proposed cableway) (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/368/>

#### Current conservation issues

Following significant bushfires that affected the property, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party on 23 November 2019, requesting information on this matter. The State Party responded on 6 December 2019, noting that bushfires were still burning in several components of the property, that firefighting operations were ongoing, and that therefore an assessment of impacts on the property would only be possible at a later stage, once safe access to the burnt areas can be assured.

The State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 23 April 2020 and an update on 1 February 2021, both of which available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/368/documents/> and report the following:

- In the Australian spring and summer of 2019-2020, extensive fires affected approximately 53% of the property according to initial fire mapping as of February 2020. However, ground truthing has shown varied fire severity in the burnt areas. Detailed impact assessments are being undertaken to better understand the extent of the fire impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and the recovery prospects;
- Specific post-fire assessment reports have been prepared for a number of the property's components. Assessments confirm significant impacts on some habitats and some of the components comprising the property, including Gibraltar Range National Park (90% of this component of the property was affected), Werrikimbe National Park (96%) and Mount Royal National Park (99%). Overall, the observed fires are considered unprecedented both in the size of individual fires and in their scale across the property;
- An assessment of the ecological impacts is underway, and a preliminary mapping of impacts on some species has been undertaken. A provisional list of 113 animal species identified as the highest priorities for management interventions has been released. Many of these species are specifically recognized as part of the property's OUV and some may have been significantly affected, such as the brush-tailed rock wallaby. Encouraging signs of recovery and resilience in

some areas are reported, including confirmed presences of certain rare and endangered species in the affected areas;

- A scientific workshop convened in 2018 identified climate change as the key threat to the property. A project is under development to understand projected changes in habitats and species range as a result of climate change, which includes a specific risk assessment for the property's OUV;
- Areas recently affected by fires are also reported to be susceptible to other threats, such as spreading of invasive weeds and risk of introduction of pathogens, e.g. myrtle rust;
- The State Party's response includes an AUD\$ 50 million (approximately USD 35 million) programme to support habitat and wildlife recovery across all affected areas, including World Heritage properties in Australia. Immediate management responses have also already started in many components of the property, including activities such as weed management and supplementary feeding of the significantly affected brush-tailed rock wallabies. In the long-term, data will continue to be collected to inform longer-term recovery actions. Additional funding of AUD\$ 150 million has been committed to sustain long-term recovery;
- The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements established in response to the 2019-2020 bushfires made a number of recommendations, and the State Party is undertaking a set of reforms to strengthen emergency management and climate and natural disaster risk reduction. This includes the establishment of a national resilience, relief and recovery agency and the establishment of Climate and Resilience Services Australia (CaRSA) with a mandate to connect and leverage the Australian Government's extensive data, information and capabilities to manage climate and natural disaster risk and support national preparedness, response, relief, recovery and resilience efforts.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The unprecedented scale of fires that affected this property, which contains sensitive ecosystems not adapted to fires, is of utmost concern. It is also of concern that some components of the property appear to have been burnt almost in their entirety and that some attributes of the property's OUV, including some species with restricted range, have been significantly affected. The additional information provided by the State Party one year after the fire events, while reporting encouraging signs of recovery in some areas, also confirmed significant impacts on some habitats and species across the property.

The comprehensive information provided by the State Party regarding the immediate management responses, the preliminary assessment and mapping of impacts, as well as funding commitments and strategies to ensure longer-term recovery is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre an update on the process of assessing the impacts of fires on the OUV of the property and the recovery prospects for the affected attributes, as soon as any significant new information becomes available.

As acknowledged by the State Party, climate change is a key threat to the property and there is a high likelihood that droughts resulting in catastrophic fires will become more and more frequent in the future in this and other properties. It is recommended that the Committee welcome the efforts of the State Party to build understanding of projected changes as a result of climate change in relation to the property's OUV, while undertaking reforms to strengthen climate and disaster resilience.

Acknowledging that two World Heritage properties in Australia were particularly affected by the 2019-2020 bushfire season, i.e. the Gondwana Rainforests and the Greater Blue Mountains Area, the efforts made through the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements to look at lessons learned and to develop recommendations on how to strengthen emergency management and climate and natural disaster risk reduction and implement reforms based on the experience are appreciated.

The State Party should be encouraged to share the lessons learned with other States Parties facing similar threats (also see Section II.F of Document WHC/21/44.COM/7), promoting knowledge exchange on fire management strategies for natural World Heritage properties.



**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.89**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Expresses its utmost concern about the unprecedented fires that affected more than half of the property, which is not normally subject to recurring fire events, and severely affected some of its components and some attributes of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
3. Welcomes the information provided by the State Party regarding the immediate management responses across different components of the property, the assessment of impacts and the plans for longer-term actions, including funding commitments to ensure long-term recovery, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, an update on the process made assessing the impacts of fires on the OUV of the property and its recovery prospects as soon as any new significant information becomes available;
4. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7**, which reiterated the importance of States Parties undertaking the most ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), notes with concern that climate change is recognized as an increasing threat to the property and also welcomes the efforts of the State Party to build understanding of projected changes as a result of climate change in relation to the property's OUV and to strengthen climate and disaster resilience;
5. Appreciates the efforts made through the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements to look at lessons learned and to develop recommendations on how to strengthen emergency management and climate and natural disaster risk reduction and implement reforms based on the experience made, and encourages the State Party to share the lessons learned with other States Parties to the Convention facing similar threats, promoting knowledge exchange on fire management strategies at natural World Heritage properties;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

**90. Great Barrier Reef (Australia) (N 154)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**91. The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) (N 798)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## 92. Keoladeo National Park (India) (N 340)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 80,000 (“Enhancing Our Heritage” project on the assessment of management effectiveness). From 2008 onwards, the property has benefited from the World Heritage India programme, funded by the United Nations Foundation (which aims to enhance management effectiveness and build staff capacity, increase the involvement of local communities in the management of the property, promote sustainable development, and raise awareness through communications and advocacy)

Previous monitoring missions

March 2005: World Heritage Centre site visit; March 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Invasive/alien terrestrial species (*Prosopis*, *Paspalum*)
- Invasive/alien freshwater species (*Eichhornia*, *Clarias gariepinus*)
- Water (extraction)
- Water infrastructure
- Management system/management plan (Need to update the Management Plan; inadequate water management including insufficient water supply and quality and competition among different users; inadequate measures to systematically monitor bird populations)
- Solid waste (Disposal of cattle carcasses near the property)
- Other climate change impacts (High natural variability of rainfall)
- Other factor: Disappearance of Siberian cranes

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2019, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/340/documents/> and providing the following updates:

- The volume of water reaching the property continues to fluctuate: 190 million cubic feet (mcf) entered the property in 2017, 715 mcf in 2018, and 392 mcf between January and September 2019;
- Two sewage treatment plants in Bharatpur city are in the final stages of commissioning, which will generate around 110 mcf of treated waste water per annum and could be diverted to the property. Expert consultations are underway to develop a robust water quality monitoring mechanism;
- Other potential solutions to sustain adequate water supply include: utilizing more water from Govardhan Drain and the Chambal River; using the property as a temporary drinking water reservoir for Bharatpur city; constructing dedicated pipelines from Panchna Dam and Bandh Baretha to guarantee the timely supply of water to the property; restoring the Gambhiri and Banganga river systems; increasing the water retention capacity of the property and creating a peripheral canal to store water to supply the property when required;

- Annual action plans are implemented to address the removal of invasive alien species (IAS) within the property, namely the African catfish, *Prosopis juliflora*, and water hyacinths. A draft Management Plan is still under preparation and will incorporate a strategy on IAS; the final copy will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The Eco-Sensitive Zone for the property has now been notified by Order SO2606(E) dated July 2019, following no objections from stakeholders. The 500m-wide strip surrounding the entire property expands up to 1.5km in the south in order to incorporate more upstream areas. Stakeholder consultations are continuing to develop a Zonal Master Plan for the Eco-Sensitive Zone. The Zonal Master Plan will not alter the approved existing land use but will prohibit or regulate certain development activities and also provide for the restoration and conservation of existing water bodies, including surface and groundwater;
- Heronry population estimates are undertaken using nest counts during the breeding season. Waterfowl estimates are conducted by teams of experts and volunteers using individual bird counts;
- Discussions between the park management authority and the regional government is ongoing to prevent the disposal of cattle carcasses near the property.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is regrettable that the State Party did not invite the IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property requested by the Committee in Decision **42 COM 7B.68**. In order to assess the state of conservation of the property and provide technical support, it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to invite this mission as soon as possible, taking into consideration that the winter season will provide the best conditions to assess the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The issue of insufficient water delivery has been consistently raised by the Committee since 1990 (Decision **14 COM IX**), and it is of utmost concern that it remains unresolved to date. The data from the State Party's report indicate that the property is still subject to considerable annual variations in the volume of water it receives. While it is noted that the State Party is considering various measures to ensure adequate flow, it is of utmost importance that sustainable and reliable solutions are implemented to guarantee at least the 550 mcft minimum water flow for the property, which is required to sustain its basic ecological function. This issue should be addressed in detail in the new management plan. A stringent water quality monitoring mechanism is essential before water from the new sewage treatment plants is released into the property, to avoid any possibility of contaminated water entering the wetlands.

The issuance of a final notification declaring the Eco-Sensitive Zone is welcomed, especially the expansion to the south to include upstream areas and provide additional protection to the whole catchment area. The State Party's assurances that it is using a consultative process to develop a Zonal Master Plan for this area are appreciated. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to consider formalizing this Eco-Sensitive Zone as a World Heritage buffer zone by submitting a Minor Boundary Modification, as outlined in Paragraphs 107, 163-164 and Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The State Party's continued efforts to remove IAS and its intention to incorporate an eradication strategy into the revised Management Plan are welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that the State Party to submit a copy of the draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, so that any comments can be reflected in the final version. Recalling that the previous Management Plan expired in 2014 and was subsequently extended until 2017, the State Party should be requested to submit the new draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2021 at the latest, to ensure its implementation as soon as possible.

A standardized census methodology appears to be in place for the monitoring of the heronries, but it is not clear if a similar annual census applies to waterfowl. It is recommended that the State Party be requested to submit survey data and analyses that clearly present time-sequenced population trends for both heronry and waterfowl in advance of the requested monitoring mission. Furthermore, it is important to reiterate that a systematic, long-term monitoring approach should be reflected in the revised Management Plan.

The discussions to avoid any disposal of cattle carcasses near the property is noted. However, noting the potential health risks to wildlife and people, it is recommended that that Committee request the State Party to immediately prevent any further disposals from happening.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.92**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.68**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not invite the IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission requested in its Decision **42 COM 7B.68**, and reiterates its request to the State Party to urgently invite this mission to the property, to take place prior to the next session of the Committee, to assess its state of conservation and the progress made in addressing issues of water provision and invasive alien species;
4. Expresses its utmost concern that the issue of insufficient water delivery remains unresolved to date and, noting the State Party's efforts towards improving water flow to the property, strongly urges the State Party to decide on a sustainable and reliable solution to secure and sustain the 550 mcft annual minimum water flow to the property required to sustain its the basic ecological function, including through concrete measures to ensure adequate flow from Panchna, Chambal and Govardhan projects;
5. Requests the State Party to ensure that a stringent water quality monitoring mechanism is in place before any effluent is diverted from the sewage water treatment plants in Bharatpur city into the property, so as to avoid any contaminated water being diverted to the property, and to ensure there is no negative impact on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
6. Welcomes the issuance of a final notification declaring an Eco-Sensitive Zone around the property and the State Party's assurances that a consultative process is ongoing for the development of a Zonal Master Plan, and encourages the State Party to consider formalizing the Eco-Sensitive Zone as a World Heritage buffer zone by submitting a proposal for a Minor Boundary Modification, in accordance with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also welcomes the State Party's continued efforts to address invasive alien species within the property and its intention to incorporate an eradication strategy into the revised Management Plan, which should also address the abovementioned water flow issues, and also requests the State Party submit an electronic copy of the revised draft to the World Heritage Centre by **1 February 2022** for review by IUCN before it is finalized;
8. Further requests the State Party to provide recent bird census data and analyses, including population trends for both heronry and waterfowl, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to clearly document the long-term approach and methodology of systematic bird population monitoring in the pending revised Management Plan;
9. Also noting the potential health risks to wildlife and people caused by the disposal of cattle carcasses near the property, requests furthermore that the State Party immediately prevent any further disposal;
10. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

### 93. Komodo National Park (Indonesia) (N 609)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/609/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1993 to 1995)

Total amount approved: USD 119,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/609/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

July 1995: mission to assess the state of conservation (mission cancelled); September 2000: joint UNESCO/IUCN mission; January – February 2002: joint UNESCO-UNEP-RARE Center for Tropical Conservation mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management systems / management plan
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Fire (wildfires) (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities (Deer poaching; coral blasting; illegal dynamite and cyanide fishing) (issues resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/609/>

Current conservation issues

On 9 March 2020, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting clarification regarding third-party information about planned developments in the property, along with other urgent threats to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), as follows:

- Infrastructure development on Rinca Island in anticipation of the G-20 Summit to be held in 2023, and construction of tourism facilities on Padar Island without notifying the Committee, despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
- Significant tourism growth targets and announced tourism reforms that could potentially affect the livelihoods of local communities and trigger local protests;
- A significant increase in illegal fishing activities in the property, including in no-take zones;
- Management issues in the property's marine area, including lack of enforcement of sustainable tourism practices, such as observing no-anchoring zones.

On 30 April and 6 May 2020, the State Party provided the following information:

- The State Party is developing an Integrated Tourism Master Plan (ITMP) for Labuan Bajo (on the west of the island of Flores, outside of the property) and including the islands of Rinca and Padar (which are part of the property), and is moving away from mass tourism and towards quality tourism;
- The 10-year Medium-Term Management Plan of the property (2016-2025), which is part of the Long-Term Plan 2000-2025, identifies seven goals for the property to become a "World-Class Ecotourism Destination" and "the Leading National Pride in Conservation Area Management". Periodic monitoring and reporting will be conducted in order to measure progress with the implementation of the Medium-Term Management Plan;

- Facilities located within the “utilization zone” of the property are being updated to improve their quality and strengthen their resilience to natural disasters and climate change. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), realised in accordance with the *IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*, is underway and several other actions are planned to address the potential urgent risks to the OUV of the property;
- The Komodo dragon population in the property has fluctuated between 2,430 and 3,022 during the 2015 to 2019 period, based on the ecological study conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

On 30 October 2020, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party not to proceed with any tourism infrastructure project that may affect the OUV of the property prior to a review of the relevant EIA by IUCN. On 30 October 2020, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre an EIA for tourism infrastructure construction on Rinca Island.

Following the review by IUCN, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to revise and resubmit the EIA in accordance with the *Operational Guidelines* and the IUCN Advice Note, both in writing and during an online meeting with the State Party on 5 November 2020. The World Heritage Centre also reiterated the request through letters dated 12 January and 12 March 2021. At the time of writing the present report, the State Party has not yet provided the revised EIA.

In a letter dated 12 March 2021, the World Heritage Centre further requested comments from the State Party following third-party information about significant changes made to the zoning system of the property in 2020, which resulted in a decrease of the wilderness zone to one-third of the previous area, the attribution of further tourism concessions within and near the property, and reported new legislation that would exempt infrastructure works in the property from the obligation of undergoing an EIA. At the time of writing the present report, the State Party has not yet provided a response.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The ongoing efforts to develop an ITMP are noted, but it is unclear to what extent the ITMP considers the World Heritage status and values of the property or how much of the property it will cover. The ITMP has the potential to improve coordination among central, provincial and local governments, which is required if tourism growth targets are to be realised in a sustainable way. Third-party information transmitted to the State Party indicates that a target of 500,000 annual visitors for the property has been proposed, which is more than double the pre-COVID-19 pandemic visitor numbers. This raises the question of how this tourism model fits with the State Party’s vision of moving away from mass tourism to more sustainable approaches. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide detailed information on how the plans to significantly increase tourism to the property will impact its OUV and how tourism will be managed.

It is of concern that the EIA for the tourism infrastructure projects on Rinca Island did not adequately assess potential impacts on the property’s OUV. This is further aggravated by the reported new legislation, which would permit infrastructure development inside the property to proceed without an EIA, as well as the attribution of several additional tourism concessions across the property following a change in the zoning of the property. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to revise the EIA and resubmit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as a matter of urgency, and to halt the projects until technical review is provided by IUCN. The State Party should also be requested to provide information on all tourism concessions within and near the property and submit the new zoning plan. It should be recalled that any development proposal requires an impact assessment in relation to the OUV, carried out in line with the *IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*, and to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse. Furthermore, in view of multiple threats, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, notably to assess the impact of ongoing developments on the OUV of the property and to review its state of conservation.

The research activities and long-term monitoring of the Komodo dragon are commendable, and its relatively stable population trend within the property is noted. Given the risk that the proposed significant increases in tourism may pose, there is a need to continue monitoring the species closely.

The lack of operational equipment and technical capacity to address complex marine management issues is also a cause for concern. The 2017 *IUCN World Heritage Outlook* for the property identified

the need to broaden the management focus to address issues within the marine components of the property and has rated the conservation of the property as being of “significant concern” since 2014. More effective law enforcement is needed to prevent destructive and illegal fishing practices and anchoring in sensitive coral reef areas, to ensure that the OUV is preserved and that the property can continue to provide benefits to local communities. From 2017 to 2019, the World Heritage Centre supported the translation of several marine management guidance documents into Indonesian and organized two capacity-building workshops at the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to strengthen marine capacity at the property and allocate sufficient budget for marine research, monitoring, education and compliance with marine regulations.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.93**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **CONF 202 21B.11**, adopted at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002),*
3. *Takes note that an Integrated Tourism Master Plan is being developed and requests the State Party to provide detailed information on how the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property will be safeguarded in the design of the Plan, and how plans to significantly increase tourism at the property reflect the stated intention to move away from mass tourism and can thus ensure the protection of the OUV;*
4. *Notes with satisfaction the research activities and long-term monitoring of the Komodo dragon, which show a stable population trend, and urges the State Party to continue regular population censuses and implement management measures in the context of proposed tourism increase;*
5. *Notes with concern the different tourism infrastructure projects undertaken and planned in the property and, also recalling that it should be informed, via the World Heritage Centre, of any major restoration or new construction before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, also requests the State Party to revise the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the tourism infrastructure projects on Rinca Island in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to resubmit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as a matter of urgency, in line with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, and to submit further information on other attributed tourism concessions in the property as well as its revised zoning plan;*
6. *Also urges the State Party to halt all tourism infrastructure projects in and around the property that have the potential to impact on its OUV until the revised EIA is submitted and reviewed by IUCN;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the impact of ongoing development on the OUV of the property and review its state of conservation;*
8. *Also notes with concern the lack of operational equipment and technical capacity to manage the property’s marine area, and requests furthermore the State Party to urgently strengthen marine management and law enforcement capacities in the property, with a specific emphasis on controlling illegal fishing activities and boat anchoring, and to allocate a sufficient budget for marine research, monitoring, education and compliance with marine regulations;*

9. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022.

#### **94. Lorentz National Park (Indonesia) (N 955)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1996 to 2001)

Total amount approved: USD 41,400

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

##### Previous monitoring missions

January 2004: IUCN mission; March-April 2008: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January-February 2011: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2014: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Mining
- Human resources (Security limitations)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Development threats)
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (Exploitation of marine resources)
- Management systems/management plans (Absence of a coordinating agency, Absence of a finalized strategic management plan, Park boundaries not physically demarcated)
- Financial resources (Inadequate financing)
- Other climate change impacts (*Nothofagus* dieback)
- Illegal activities

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/>

##### Current conservation issues

On 6 March 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/955/documents> and reports the following:

- Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrols are continuing in the lowland areas of the property. During the reporting period, an additional SMART training activity was held through a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID);
- A mitigation action plan for the Habema-Kenyam road has been prepared and its implementation started in 2017, but it has now been halted due to security concerns in the area;
- Monitoring of *Nothofagus* dieback along the Habema-Kenyam road in 2019 found no correlation between fungal disease prevalence and distance to the road, but further analyses are being conducted on additional parameters. Furthermore, the surveys showed that attacks from woodboring beetles may have contributed to the death of infected *Nothofagus* trees, and some were lost due to forest fires during the dry season;



- A description of the eight management zones according to the new zonation scheme was presented along with a submission of the 2018 zonation document in Indonesian. The so-called 'core zone' of the National Park accounts for 35% of the property and is described as carrying the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, while the 'wilderness zone' (36%) surrounds this 'core zone' and protects it from external threats located in the other zones;
- 190 km of the trans-Papua road cross the property and have been integrated in the 'special zone' (1.9%). The area along the trans-Papua road, including the Wamena-Habema-Kenyam section, has been included in the 'rehabilitation zone' (0.5%), along with other damaged areas due to illegal logging and cultivation as well as *Nothofagus* dieback, all of which are considered having a significant impact on the OUV of the property;
- The IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission could not be invited due to regional and national elections, which were followed by security issues on the island.

On 18 December 2018, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party to request clarification on a proposed "Trans-Papuan Highway" in light of potential threats to the OUV of the property, and especially its integrity. While some information on the trans-Papua road is provided in its report, a response by the State Party still remains pending at the time of writing of this report.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is regrettable that the State Party could not invite the IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, which has been pending since 2017.

The same security challenges on the island have also interrupted the implementation of mitigation measures for the Habema-Kenyam road, which is deeply concerning. Recalling that the road was constructed and opened for public use despite the Committee's concerns for its potential significant impact on the OUV of the property, the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures is crucial to protect the property's fragile alpine ecosystem. Details of the mitigation measures that have been implemented and are planned should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, and their implementation resumed as soon as the security situation allows. It should also be recalled that the Committee previously requested the State Party to review the effectiveness of the Environmental Management Plan for the road in avoiding and mitigating impacts on the OUV (Decision **41 COM 7B.29**), as it was unclear how the impacts were being managed.

It is also of concern that the State Party report is now indicating that Habema-Kenyam road is part of the "Trans-Papuan Highway". It is regrettable that the State Party has not yet provided any further clarification on this project, as requested by the World Heritage Centre in December 2018, and it is of the utmost concern that 190km of the road across the property have already been completed. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit details of the project.

In this regard, the mission is urgently required in order to assess the potential impacts of the road developments in the property and determine whether the current mitigation measures are adequate for protecting the property's OUV.

The zonation within the property is concerning, since it allows for activities to occur that may potentially impact the OUV of the property and which should not be permitted. Specifically, the permitted activities in the special use zone raise the most concern as they cover a wide range of possible activities, including roads, cultivation and airport construction. These activities should be encouraged outside of the property boundaries, as they are likely to negatively impact on the OUV. Furthermore, the description that the 'wilderness zone' would act as a buffer between the so-called 'core zone' and other zones within the property does not align with the need to ensure the protection of the OUV within the entire property boundary. A buffer zone should surround the whole property to ensure that the entire property is protected from threats that originate from outside the property boundaries. The 'utilization zone' has now been reduced to 0.4% of the property, mainly for tourism-focused development, but any development proposal will require an impact assessment in relation to the OUV, carried out in line with the *IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*. Such assessments should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse.

The continuation of the SMART patrols and the preliminary results of the *Nothofagus* tree survey are appreciated. It is recommended that the State Party be requested to continue the patrols and submit the full findings of the *Nothofagus* survey to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN when it becomes available. Noting that forest fires are also a cause of *Nothofagus* loss, it is important that fire

management, including climate change-related aspects, be captured in the Management Plan for the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.94**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.29** and **43 COM 7B.9**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,
3. Reiterates its concern about the potential impacts of the Habema-Kenyam road and also expresses concern that the State Party report indicates that this road is part of the “Trans-Papuan Highway” project and that the implementation of mitigation measures for the Habema-Kenyam road has been halted whilst the road remains open for public use;
4. Urges the State Party to:
  - a) *Submit details of the mitigation measures that have been undertaken and that are planned for the Habema-Kenyam road to the World Heritage Centre,*
  - b) *Close the road for public use until mitigation measures are fully implemented,*
  - c) *Provide clarifications to the World Heritage Centre on the “Trans-Papuan Highway” and its potential impacts on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), especially its integrity, including a detailed map, a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as well as the foreseen mitigation measures, as a matter of priority and before any further work is undertaken;*
5. Also expresses concern about the new zoning plan of the property, which foresees a special use zone where a wide range of activities are permitted, including roads, cultivation and airport construction, and reminds the State Party that activities in any of the zones within the property that may impact on its OUV must be subject to an EIA, conducted in line with the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Takes note of the preliminary findings of the Nothofagus tree survey along the Habema-Kenyam road and requests the State Party to submit the full findings when it becomes available;
7. Also requests the State Party to ensure that fire management, including climate change-related aspects, is incorporated into the Management Plan for the property, in order to prevent fire-related Nothofagus dieback;
8. Appreciates the ongoing patrolling activities within the property and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts;
9. Regrets that the IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property could not yet be invited due to security concerns and reiterates its request to the State Party to invite this mission as soon as feasible to assess, prior to the next session of the Committee, the state of conservation of the property, in particular the state of the road projects in the

*property, their impacts on the OUV and the effectiveness of new zoning of the property to ensure the long-term conservation of the property's OUV;*

10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, 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 45th session in 2022.*

## **95. Western Tien-Shan (Kazakhstan/Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan) (N 1490)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1490/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2008)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1490/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / Management Plan (Need to finalize the transboundary management framework for the property; Need to further develop collaboration between the States Parties in the framework of a tripartite Memorandum for management of the property; Need to review and rationalize the boundaries of the components of the property and their buffer zones to ensure that they fully correspond to Criterion (x))
- Human resources (Lack of capacity on transnational management)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1490/>

### Current conservation issues

On 4 February 2020, the States Parties of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan submitted a joint report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1490/documents/> and provides the following information:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the management and protection of the property was signed between the three States Parties in February 2019. The implementation of activities listed in the MoU is ongoing, including the establishment of a regional working group to coordinate management activities and annual monitoring of the property;
- In 2018-2019, several workshops concerning natural World Heritage in Central Asia were held by the IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in coordination with the States Parties, including a regional capacity development workshop in Almaty in April 2019. The workshop served as a platform for the States Parties' representatives to discuss current natural World Heritage issues in the region. Western Tien-Shan received a special focus, with an emphasis on strengthening further management cooperation;

- In Uzbekistan, a number of actions have been taken to improve the management system of the Chatkal State Biosphere Reserve in 2016-2019, including changes in management authorities. Notably, the management of the Ugam-Chatkal State Biosphere Reserve, designated in 2018 in the territory of the former Strict Nature Reserve, which includes the Bashkizilsay component of the property, was assigned to the “Uzbekistan Temir Yollari” National Railway Company, however the general activity of this protected area is overseen by the State Committee for Ecology and Environment Protection. This change is reported to be likely to have a positive influence on the property, including through provision of additional budget by the railway company;
- The boundaries of components situated on the territory of Sayram-Ugam National Nature Park in Kazakhstan were reviewed, as previously reported by the State Party in its 2018 state of conservation report. In doing so, the zones of “limited economic use” were removed from the property and included into the buffer zone and technical mistakes in the borders of the property corrected. The States Parties report that the revised area of the Sayram-Ugam National Nature Park is 88,425 hectares, and 87,628 hectares for its buffer zone, with no changes in the total area coverage of this component and its buffer zone combined (i.e. 176,053 hectares) nor the management/land use type as a result;
- A joint proposal for boundary modification is being developed in response to Committee requests. The potential of the property to also meet Criterion (ix) is being discussed as part of the process.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The signing of the MoU on the management and protection of the property between the three States Parties is welcomed. However, it is noted that the planned joint steering committee, referred to in the States Parties’ report as the regional working group, which would assume coordinating functions, is yet to be established. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the States Parties to expedite the establishment of the joint steering committee in order to effectively implement the management objectives listed in the MoU. The consultation with IUCN on regional projects and workshops aimed at building capacity of the States Parties towards effective transnational management of the property is welcomed.

Although the submission of a joint state of conservation report is welcome, it is noteworthy that this report provides no information concerning the Kyrgyz components. It is also recalled that, at its 42nd session, the World Heritage Committee regretted that Kyrgyzstan did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the Kyrgyz components of the property.

While the report provides some information on the changes in the protection regime and management system of Uzbek components of the property, in particular the new role of the “Uzbekistan Temir Yollari” National Railway Company in the management of the Ugam-Chatkal State Biosphere Reserve, the exact governance arrangements and corresponding management regime of these components remain unclear, in particular how the protection regime has changed and the potential resulting impact on the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The boundary revisions to the Sayram-Ugam National Nature Park in Kazakhstan remain highly concerning. It should be recalled that any proposal for a boundary modification must be submitted formally by the States Parties, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and that such a modification would only come into effect if and when it is approved by the Committee. The significant changes introduced at the national level, without the Committee’s approval, to the zoning and protection regime of the Sayram-Ugam National Nature Park, including the excision of more than 60,000 hectares from the property (i.e. ca. 35% of this component) and their inclusion in the buffer zone, would result in part of the property no longer benefitting from an appropriate level of protection, which would constitute a potential danger to the property’s OUV.

The questions surrounding governance and management of the components of the property in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan remain issues of concern that require further assessment, particularly the changes to the management and protection status of the components of the property in the Chatkal State Biosphere Reserve and the possible impact on the property’s OUV resulting from boundary revisions of the Sayram-Ugam National Nature Park, as well as the lack of information on the state of conservation of the components in Kyrgyzstan. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the States Parties to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the changes in the management regime of the Chatkal State Biosphere Reserve component and the changes in the zoning regime of the Sayram-Ugam National Nature Park, and to verify whether any new threats to the components in Kyrgyzstan have emerged since inscription. During the Reactive Monitoring

mission, an opportunity should be sought for the three States Parties' representatives to meet with the mission experts in order to share an understanding of the current issues and the procedural concerns over the boundary modification and other points raised by the Committee, and to discuss the progress regarding the finalization of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property.

The development of a joint proposal for a significant boundary modification is noted, along with its stated aims to a) fully correspond to criterion (x); b) follow ecological principles and address connectivity; c) exclude areas originally included for their paleontological values, as previously requested by the Committee; and d) consider the potential to also meet Criterion (ix). It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the States Parties to continue their work in that regard.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.95**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.69**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Welcomes the submission of a joint report on the state of conservation of the property by the three States Parties and their efforts to strengthen transboundary management of the property, including through the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the management and protection of the property, and reiterates its request to the three States Parties to complete the establishment of the joint steering committee to ensure the implementation of the MoU;*
4. *Takes note of the information provided on the changes in the protection regime and the management system of the components of the property in Uzbekistan, but considers that the information provided does not sufficiently clarify whether the new protection status and management system would guarantee the effective conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
5. *Notes with utmost concern the excision of a substantial part of Sayram-Ugam National Nature Park in Kazakhstan from the property and its subsequent inclusion in the buffer zone, as these significant changes introduced to the zoning and protection regime of this protected area could affect the property's OUV, including its conditions of integrity;*
6. *Requests the States Parties to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to assess the changes in the management regime of the above-mentioned components of the property in the Chatkal State Biosphere Reserve in Uzbekistan and the Sayram-Ugam National Nature Park in Kazakhstan, to evaluate whether these changes represent a potential danger to the property's OUV and integrity and to verify whether any new threats to the components in Kyrgyzstan have emerged since inscription, and encourages the States Parties to discuss the progress regarding the finalization of the Statement of OUV for the property;*
7. *Also reiterates its request to the States Parties to review and rationalize the boundaries of the components of the property and their buffer zones to ensure that they fully correspond to Criterion (x), follow ecological principles and address connectivity, exclude areas originally included for their paleontological values while also considering the potential to meet Criterion (ix), and to develop, as a matter of priority, a joint proposal for a significant boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the Operational Guidelines, and also encourages the States Parties to seek further advice from IUCN on the proposal before submitting it to the World Heritage Centre;*

8. Also requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023.

## 96. Sagarmatha National Park (Nepal) (N 120)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 7 (from 1980 to 1999)

Total amount approved: USD 232,097

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

June 1985: UNESCO mission; December 2002: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; May 2016: IUCN Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Air pollution
- Illegal activities (Poaching)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Rapid increase and commercialization of mountaineering tourism, including resort and trail development);
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure (noise pollution and visual impacts from helicopter use)
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (Unclear legal basis for establishment and operation of Kongde View Resort, including access trails)
- Mining
- Other climate change impacts
- Quarrying
- Solid waste (Inadequate solid and liquid waste management)
- Forestry / wood production (Firewood collection)
- Others: Human-wildlife conflict; Subsistence wild plant collection

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 September 2019, the State Party submitted an English translation of the Supreme Court's verdict regarding the Kongde View Resort to the World Heritage Centre, and submitted on 8 January 2020 a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/120/documents/> and responds to Decision **42 COM 7B.70** as follows:

- The Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) placed solid waste containers along the trekking routes, resulting in the collection of 10,000 kg of waste in 2018 from the Everest region. The State Party has drawn up further plans to clean up the Everest base camp;

- Tourism numbers reached a record high of 58,030 individuals in 2018-2019, compared to the previous record of 25,000 in 2015;
- Random checks are undertaken on the helicopters flying over the property to confirm they are limited to rescue operations and not tourism purposes;
- Firewood collection has been banned in the Namche area of the property, and law enforcement activities have resulted in no reported cases of illegal activities within the property;
- The UNDP-funded project on flood and glacial lake outburst risk reduction has been phased out; however, local communities are continuing to be engaged with the monitoring and early warning system downstream;
- Local communities continue to refuse the proposal to formalise the existing buffer zone of the Park under the World Heritage Convention;
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a proposed optical fibre project was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 9 May 2019. Following receipt of IUCN's technical review on 21 November 2019, the State Party requested the project proponents to review and revise the EIA.

The State Party also reports the growing challenge and risk that climate change continues to pose for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, primarily linked to the melting of glaciers.

On 6 January 2020, the World Heritage Centre transmitted third-party information to the State Party relating to impacts of overcrowding at the property. The State Party responded on 28 January 2020, acknowledging the increasing number of tourists and reporting of plans to develop a Tourism Management Plan that will address impacts on the OUV.

On 4 May 2020, the World Heritage Centre requested clarification from the State Party on the recent discovery of seven Himalayan musk deer carcasses in the property along with 60 traps, most likely related to musk trafficking. No reply has been received at the time of writing the present document.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

Impacts from growing tourism continue to be an increasing concern for the protection of the property, as seen across World Heritage properties globally. While the efforts to date are appreciated, a more proactive and strategic approach is urgently required to cope with the current challenges. In this context, it is positive to learn of the State Party's intention to develop the much needed and long-awaited Tourism Management Plan. This Plan should be informed by a visitor carrying capacity study, which should establish an appropriate carrying capacity for the property, especially during peak seasons when overcrowding on the climbing routes has been reported. The Plan should also be aligned with the current Management Plan and its next iteration when it expires in 2020. Whilst noting that the State Party undertakes random checks on helicopters, it is important to recall that the 2016 Advisory mission reported that around 70% of the helicopter traffic within the property is tourism-related. Therefore, tighter restrictions and effective management to regulate helicopter use within the property and the nationally designated buffer zones of the Park are needed and should be addressed in the revised General Management Plan and Tourism Management Plan.

Recalling that, in 2016, the State Party expressed concerns over the increasing cases of illegal firewood collection from inside the property, the confirmation that there are currently no reported cases of illegal activities is welcomed. Nevertheless, the State Party should be encouraged to continue its monitoring efforts and reflect this and associated interventions in the revised Management Plan, as appropriate. The recent poaching of endangered musk deer is worrying and suggests the need to review and strengthen measures within the property to prevent any further poaching from occurring.

It is a source of concern that the Supreme Court order concerning the Kongde View Resort ruled in favour of the resort, which is located inside the property and has been in operation since 2007. Given the concerns expressed by the Committee over a number of years regarding the range of serious threats that the resort poses to the OUV of the property, the Committee may urge the State Party to develop a detailed environmental plan to mitigate the impacts of the resort, submit this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, and take any necessary measures to monitor its implementation.

The proposed optical fibre project has potential positive implications for local communities but, as has been communicated to the State Party, requires more planning and consideration of its potential impacts

on the OUV of the property. The State Party should be requested to submit a revised EIA to the World Heritage Centre for further review by IUCN before making any decision that may be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The continued engagement of local communities since the end of the UNDP-supported project is positive. Climate change is a global threat, and the State Party should be encouraged to further monitor the impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property and strengthen efforts to build resilience at the property level, while including a climate adaptation strategy into the revised management plan (see Decision **41 COM 7**).

No response was provided to the Committee's previous request to develop a zonation scheme inside the property. A zonation system should be classified according to ecosystem and cultural protection requirements and is clearly distinct from a buffer zone. IUCN is ready to provide the State Party with examples and guidance.

The State Party's increased effort to engage with local communities in order to recognize the current buffer zone of the National Park within the World Heritage system is greatly appreciated. Noting that the support and agreement of local communities is fundamental to proceed with the proposal, the State Party should be encouraged to continue its dialogue and efforts to formalize the buffer zone with the support of local people and to submit it as a proposal for a minor boundary modification in due time.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.96**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7** and **42 COM 7B.70**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Noting with concern the reported impacts of increasing visitor numbers on the property, welcomes the State Party's intention to develop a Tourism Management Plan and requests the State Party to:*
  - a) *Undertake a visitor carrying capacity study to establish an appropriate carrying capacity for the property, especially during the peak season, and use the findings to inform the Tourism Management Plan,*
  - b) *Address how monitoring and regulation of tourism-related helicopter traffic within the property and the nationally designated buffer zones of the Park can be strengthened to reduce impacts,*
  - c) *Ensure that the Tourism Management Plan aligns with the 2016-2020 Management Plan for the property and its next iteration;*
4. *Also recalling its previous concerns regarding the range of serious threats that the Kongde View Resort, located within the property, poses to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), expresses concern over the Supreme Court ruling in favour of the resort and urges the State Party to develop a detailed environmental plan to mitigate the impacts of the resort, submit this plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, and take any necessary measures to monitor its implementation;*
5. *Also welcomes the State Party's decision to request a revision of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the optical fibre project based on the comments provided by IUCN, and also requests the State Party to submit a revised EIA to the World Heritage Centre for further review by IUCN before making any decision that may be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*



6. Emphasizing the distinction between a zonation scheme and a buffer zone, reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a zonation system, notably as a means of ensuring appropriate provisions for enclave villages located within the property;
7. Notes with satisfaction that there are currently no reported cases of illegal collection of firewood from within the property and encourages the State Party to continue its monitoring efforts in that regard and to reflect this and associated interventions in the next iteration of the Management Plan, as appropriate;
8. Also notes with concern the reported poaching of Himalayan musk deer within the property and further requests the State Party to review and strengthen measures to prevent any further poaching;
9. Appreciates the steps taken by the State Party to consult with local communities regarding the formalization of the nationally designated buffer zone of the National Park as a buffer zone to the property, and also encourages the State Party to continue this dialogue with the aim of formalizing a buffer zone, with the support of local people and, in due time, to submit to the World Heritage Centre a proposal for a minor boundary modification for review by the Committee, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Also notes with concern the increasing impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property and the wellbeing of local communities and requests furthermore the State Party to further monitor the impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property, to strengthen efforts towards building resilience at the property level, and to develop and implement a climate adaptation strategy, which should be integrated into the revised management plan;
11. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## **97. Dong Phrayayen-Khao-Yai Forest Complex (Thailand) (N 590rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/590/documents>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/590/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February-March 2012: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2014: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal activities (Poaching and illegal logging)
- Ground transport infrastructure (Road expansion, in particular regarding Highway 304)
- Land conversion (Encroachment)
- Management systems/management plan
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Water infrastructure (Dams)
- Livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animals (Cattle grazing) (issue resolved)
- Other threats: Forest fragmentation (connectivity and the need for ecological corridors)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/590/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2018 and 29 November 2019, the State Party submitted updated reports on the state of conservation of the property. The summaries of both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/590/documents/>. The State Party reports as follows:

- Efforts to further enhance international cooperation on addressing illegal logging and trade of Siamese Rosewood and other endangered wildlife species have continued amongst the ASEAN countries and through CITES. Cooperation with Cambodia has also continued to strengthen the management of the transboundary landscape, and a joint Action Plan on Protected Areas and Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Landscape Management (2019-2022) was approved in April 2019. A Joint Ranger Training Course on Transboundary Enforcement took place in August 2019;
- The implementation of the Action Plan to Prevent and Suppress Illegal Logging and Trade of Siamese Rosewood in Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex 2014-2019 has resulted in a significant decline in reported criminal cases, from 642 in 2014 to 29 in 2019 (up to September). There has been no report of illegal logging of other species to substitute for Siamese Rosewood. SMART patrols have been intensified, resulting in 90% coverage of the property in 2019 and the installation of 126 camera traps to date. The use of GPS trackers on Siamese Rosewood timbers has assisted in some of the criminal cases. The State Party has committed to host and fund a workshop to draft the next Action Plan;
- No new case of resort development has been recorded inside the property. For better protection of natural resources within the property and other protected areas, amendments to the National Park Act and the Wildlife Protection and Reservation Act are being made, which would encourage greater community participation in protected area management;
- The expansion of Highway 304 and its associated forest corridors for wildlife between Khao Yai and Thap Lan National Parks was completed in March 2019, with the exception of a section where a vehicle bridge and wildlife underpass are still under construction;
- Mitigation measures for the Huay Samong Dam are continuing to be implemented, including enhanced water patrols and the creation of a new ranger station, forest rehabilitation around the reservoir, and the establishment of a Network Centric Anti-Poaching System (NCAPS);
- On 19 September 2017, the Thai Cabinet passed a resolution to halt the expansion of Highway 348 and seek alternative options, and gave instructions to its Government Ministries to review the necessity and suitability of constructing dams and reservoirs inside the property. The Lam Prayathan dam project inside the property was cancelled as a result of a feasibility study and the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- On 26 June 2020, the World Heritage Centre requested clarification from the State Party on renewed plans for the development of several dams within and near the property. In a letter submitted on 11 January 2021, the State Party replied that none of the seven indicated dams had yet been approved, and that EIAs, which would include assessments of alternative options, were still ongoing.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's continued active leadership in enhancing international cooperation to address the illegal logging and trade of Siamese Rosewood is commendable. The transboundary landscape initiative with Cambodia that extends beyond the boundaries of the property is also a vital effort to tackle illegal traffickers that operate transnationally.

The report on the implementation of the 2014-2019 Action Plan indicates that the use of varying technologies and strengthened patrol efforts has successfully resulted in a considerable reduction in the number of reported cases of illegal Siamese Rosewood logging. These efforts are welcomed and point to an improved situation regarding Siamese Rosewood and other valuable timber species. However, it is important to reiterate that this indicator is not necessarily reflecting a true reduction in illegal logging, as other factors need to be considered, such as the detection rate of illegal logging incidents. Therefore, the 2016 mission recommendation to redefine the indicators of the Action Plan, ensuring adequate means of verification to accurately and fully measure the plan's effectiveness, should be reiterated.

Taking into consideration the significant efforts to curb the illegal trade since 2017, and based on available data, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN consider that the inclusion of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger is not warranted at present. This will require reassessment if there is evidence that the situation regarding illegal logging deteriorates further or that other valuable species start to be targeted by logging or poaching. The State Party's commitment to develop a new joint Action Plan on Protected Areas and Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Landscape Management (2019-2022) in cooperation with Cambodia and other international partners is appreciated, and it is important to ensure that the current cooperative efforts are sustained.

The assurance that no new resort development has taken place in the property is welcomed. The ongoing process to amend legislation to acknowledge and accommodate community involvement has the potential to raise awareness and empower communities for site management. However, it will be important to ensure that this will not lead to new encroachments, and therefore a close monitoring of how this new legislation may affect the integrity of the property will be required.

The continued efforts to mitigate the impacts of the expansion of Highway 304, its associated forest corridors and Huay Samong Dam are appreciated. The State Party should ensure that mitigation measures and monitoring continue beyond the construction phase, to be sure that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is not negatively impacted.

The suspension of further expansion of Highway 348 and the commitment to seeking alternative options are welcomed. The additional Cabinet instructions pertaining to new dams and the State Party's decision not to continue the Lam Prayathan dam project in view of its potential negative impacts on the OUV of the property are appreciated. However, third-party information verified by the State Party indicates that this dam is still being considered among six other dams that are currently undergoing EIAs. Noting that all seven dams would be positioned within the property, and recalling that the Committee, in its Decision **41 COM 7B.32**, had requested the State Party to permanently cancel plans for any construction of dams with reservoirs inside the property boundaries, it is of significant concern that the active plans are being considered via EIA processes. With increasing pressure for development, combined with climate change impacts and the cumulative impacts from the currently operating dams within and in the vicinity of the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the river basin including the property, in accordance with the IUCN *World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*, to inform management and future development proposals at the basin level. It is further recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to cancel any consideration for the construction of new dams within the property, in line with previous decisions, and to suspend the specific assessment of projects in the wider basin that could impact the property's OUV until the SEA has been completed and reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

### Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.97

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decisions **40 COM 7B.90** and **41 COM 7B.32**, adopted at its 40th (Doha, 2016) and 41st (Krakow, 2017) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the State Party for its continued active leadership in enhancing international cooperation on illegal logging and trade of Siamese Rosewood;
4. Notes with satisfaction that the implementation of the Action Plan to Prevent and Suppress Illegal Logging and Trade of Siamese Rosewood in Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex 2014-2019 has reportedly resulted in a reduction of recorded cases relating to the illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood;
5. Requests the State Party to redefine the indicators for the Action Plan, ensuring adequate means of verification to accurately measure the effectiveness of its implementation, as per the recommendations of the 2016 Reactive Monitoring mission;
6. Appreciates the State Party's commitment to develop a new joint Action Plan on Protected Areas and Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Landscape Management (2019-2022) in cooperation with Cambodia and other international partners, and encourages the States Parties to ensure that the current cooperative efforts are sustained;
7. Also notes with satisfaction that no new case of resort development has been recorded inside the property, and that the process to amend the National Park Act and the Wildlife Protection and Reservation Act has been initiated to improve community participation in protected area management, and also requests the State Party to closely monitor how this new legislation may affect the integrity of the property and ensure that appropriate measures are taken to continue preventing any illegal encroachment within the property;
8. Further notes with satisfaction the State Party's continued commitment and efforts to avoid any negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property from the ongoing expansion of Highway 304 and the construction of the Huay Samong Dam, and further requests the State Party to ensure that the mitigation measures and monitoring of impacts continue in the post-construction phase to mitigate any adverse impact on the property's OUV;
9. Welcomes the Cabinet resolution to halt the further expansion of Highway 348 and seek alternative options to review the necessity and suitability of constructing dams and reservoirs inside the property and to cancel the Lam Prayathan dam project in view of potential negative impacts on the OUV of the property, but notes with utmost concern reports of the renewed development of several dam projects within and adjacent to the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to permanently cancel plans for any construction of dams with reservoirs inside the property's boundaries;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the river basin, including the property, to inform management and future development proposals at the basin level, and that any proposals for dam projects around the property that may impact on its OUV be suspended until the SEA has been completed and reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022.

## 98. Ha Long Bay (Viet Nam) (N 672bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1994

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/672/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1996 to 2018)

Total amount approved: USD 163,145

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/672/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property (recently): USD 100,000 under the Youth Volunteers for Cultural Heritage Preservation project (2003-2006); USD 519,000 for Cua Van Floating Cultural Centre, a component of the Ha Long Eco-museum (funded by the Government of Norway for the period of 2003-2006)

### Previous monitoring missions

January 2003, December 2006: World Heritage Centre mission; November 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2018: IUCN Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (Population growth)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Housing
- Industrial areas
- Financial and human resources
- Management systems / management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/672/>

### Current conservation issues

The 2018 IUCN Advisory mission to the property concluded that the overall management was satisfactory with regard to the conservation of biodiversity but not in relation to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It raised concerns over the visual and physical impacts of waste and the growing number of visitors to the property. These concerns were also noted by the World Heritage Centre during a visit to the property in 2018 and 2019. Furthermore, in the spring of 2019, the World Heritage Centre received third-party information related to waste management and the quality of visitor experience and shared this with the State Party on 15 April 2019.

In light of the above, upon the request of the World Heritage Centre, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 26 December 2019, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/672/documents/> and presents the following information:

- The management and policies concerning the property have been strengthened through the adoption of the 2017 National Decree on the protection of World Heritage, implementation of the Management Plan (2017-2021) and the establishment of a Ha Long Bay Management Unit, working in close cooperation with provincial and local authorities. A new plan for the management, conservation and tourism development of the property until 2030 and a vision towards 2050 are currently under development;
- Socio-economic activities at the property are closely monitored and strictly managed, including the relocation of fishing villages;
- Reinforcement of wastewater management measures for coal and tourism industries are applied through the introduction of the new Jokaso wastewater management system and a quarterly

monitoring of water quality at 41 locations on Ha Long Bay. All wastewater from tourist boats operating within the property is expected to be treated by 2021, and by 2030, all cement factories along the coast of the Bay will be closed and mining operations terminated;

- Solid waste collection is improved by reducing plastic waste and prioritizing collection along the coast and discharge points, as well as general recycling efforts;
- Visitor numbers to the property increased from 3,924,043 in 2017 to 4,062,215 by November 2019, while the number of tourist boats has reduced slightly from 533 in 2016 to 505 in 2019 by increasing the capacity of the boats. New sightseeing routes and infrastructure as well as a long-term booking system are under development to manage the increasing tourism. A carrying capacity study for the property will begin in 2020, which will feed into adapting the tourism management strategy. A new “Green Sail” initiative has been introduced to encourage tourism operators to meet environmental standards;
- Implementation of several projects to improve management and protection of the property, including an International Assistance project to evaluate management effectiveness. The State Party further requested to receive support from the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme to improve tourism management and proceed with a carrying capacity assessment.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The State Party demonstrated its awareness and reactivity to the issues raised by the 2018 IUCN Advisory mission, notably through the adoption of legal and policy tools such as the 2017 Decree, the on-going development of the Management Plan and the reinforcement of the Management Unit, all of which are welcome. The elaboration of a new plan for the management, conservation, and tourism development of the property until 2030, and with a vision towards 2050, is also noted.

The introduction of new measures for wastewater and solid waste management, and the State Party's intention to further upscale these efforts, including the closure of industrial operations and mines alongside the property, are welcomed. It is important that these measures are fully implemented and that impacts on water quality and other environmental attributes of the property are continuously monitored over an extended period. However, noting that the closure of the coal mines and cement factories is not expected to take place until 2030, and bearing in mind that the 2018 mission expressed considerable concerns over the release of wastewater from mines directly into the river, there is an urgent need to install wastewater treatment stations for these mines.

While acknowledging the achievements and efforts of the State Party to implement the 2018 mission recommendations on environmental management, the 2019 International Assistance project evaluated the management effectiveness of the property and highlighted continued concerns over possible threats and pressures on the OUV and related values of the property. In particular, industrial development activities within the biophysical catchment area, along the mainland foreshore to the north of the Bai Chay Bridge and the six rivers to the north of the Bridge, have been identified as potential risk vectors, notably due to additional nutrient and other contamination of the Bay's ecosystem, and should be controlled using a holistic ecosystem approach.

Tourism management and its harmonization with the protection of the property's OUV remains a challenge, given the continued growth of visitor numbers. The measures introduced by the State Party to provide a higher-quality experience, upgrade infrastructure and enhance security measures and environmental considerations, rather than increasing vessel numbers, is positive. However, an integrated vision to manage tourism-related impacts is strongly needed. The State Party is therefore encouraged to seek advice from the World Heritage Tourism Programme (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tourism/>) and prepare a Sustainable Tourism and Development Strategy for the property.

The expansion of new infrastructures and tourist facilities is visibly compromising the broader landscape values, notably the hotels and holiday accommodations close to the property. Strategic planning is required to avoid overcrowding inside and in the vicinity of the property and to regulate multi-sectoral activities, which should be reflected in the Management Plan and supported by an effective governance mechanism. Planned measures such as the carrying capacity study on sightseeing routes within the property are welcomed and should support the revision of the management strategy, which should be fully implemented and respected by all stakeholders.

As the State Party plans to expand the property to include the Cat Ba archipelago, it will be critical to give due consideration to the entire catchment management, using an ecosystem-based approach. The

current buffer zone is not clear in relation to the existing industrial activities, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a map with the current boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, with clear indications of industrial areas as well as details on the use and management regime within the buffer zone

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.98**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 38 COM 7B.72, adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),
3. Commends the State Party for addressing many of the previously identified conservation issues and the 2018 IUCN Advisory mission, and welcomes the overall progress in reinforcing the management and conservation framework, educational activities and waste management;
4. Requests the State Party to continue implementing all the recommendations of the 2018 mission, taking into account the outcomes of the management effectiveness review, in particular:
  - a) The recommendations concerning visitor management, including conducting a carrying capacity study,
  - b) The submission of details on the measures implemented for wastewater and solid waste management, including results of the water quality assessment in and around the property, details of the existing industries, including coal and cement industries operating within the property, its buffer zone and within the biophysical catchment area;
5. Also requests the State Party to finalize and implement the revised Management Plan as an integrated management tool, with particular attention given to:
  - a) Ensuring the plan is based on a catchment-wide approach for the holistic protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
  - b) Including tourism management measures based on the carrying capacity study to avoid overcrowding inside and in the vicinity of the property, and thus address impacts of increasing tourism pressures on the OUV of the property,
  - c) Providing a clear governance framework for development projects, especially for multi-sectoral developments that include infrastructure, maritime operations, urban activities and resource extraction,
  - d) Ensuring that any social measures having socio-economic impacts, such as relocation projects, are voluntary and in line with the 2015 Policy Document on the integration of a Sustainable Development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, and that they socio-cultural rights of local communities are preserved;
6. Encourages the State Party to seek advice from the World Heritage Tourism Programme and prepare a Sustainable Tourism and Development Strategy for the property, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
7. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, a map with a clear indication of the current boundaries of the property and its

*buffer zone, including details on the use and management regime within the buffer zone, in line with paragraph 164 of Operational Guidelines;*

8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*



## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 99. Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine) (N 1133ter)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 100. Białowieża Forest (Belarus, Poland) (N 33ter)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 101. Pirin National Park (Bulgaria) (N 225bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2004-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 15,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 24,915 of financial support from the Participation Programme of UNESCO for development of a strategy for sustainable tourism (2010)

#### Previous monitoring missions

2002, 2004, 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions; 2018: IUCN Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development (developments in the Bansko ski zone)
- Management systems/management plan (lack of effective management mechanisms)
- Management and institutional factors (boundary issues)
- Illegal activities (illegal logging)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 26 November 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/225/documents/>, and providing the following information:

- The Court case regarding the Ministry of Environment and Water's (MOEW) decision that no Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for the new draft Management Plan for

Pirin National Park (PNP) is still ongoing and the new Management Plan has therefore not yet been finalized;

- The amendments to the current 2004 Management Plan, adopted by the Council of Ministers in December 2017, altering regulations regarding permitted activities and allowing for expansion of recreational facilities and infrastructure in the buffer zone, have been repealed by a Court ruling. In compliance with the Court's decision, no further development plans, spatial planning or other proposals related to the repealed amendments have been undertaken;
- The current Management Plan does not provide for strategic planning of socio-economic and spatial developments or land use. Although development plans and construction projects are subject to SEAs, Appropriate Assessments (AA) and stakeholder participation, there is no overarching strategy or collaboration with neighboring municipalities to oversee, plan and develop a common approach and long-term vision for the PNP and surrounding area;
- During the 2018-2019 period, the MOEW approved a number of Investment Proposals within the property, which were subject to a screening procedure for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and AAs. These projects include improved access and infrastructure for people with disabilities at Yavorov hut, erosion control measures and slope stabilization, strengthening and reconstruction of two pillars of a cable car, construction of additional water supply infrastructure and reconstruction of existing water supply pipelines and water collection facilities, including within the property, as well as projects to improve the conservation status of certain habitats and species. Regarding infrastructure projects, the State Party notes it was concluded that none were likely to cause negative impacts on the property. No information or details about the results of the EIAs and AAs were provided by the State Party.

On 29 April 2020, the Supreme Administrative Court (SAC) confirmed the rejection of Decision № EO-1 by the MOEW to not implement an SEA of the draft new Management Plan of PNP. On 10 June 2020, the State Party confirmed to the World Heritage Centre that the MOEW complied with the Court decision and will take the necessary follow-up action.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The information provided by the State Party that the finalization of the new Management Plan for the property remained pending and awaiting the SAC's decision is noted. Noting also the subsequent SAC decision rejecting the MOEW's conclusion that no SEA is needed for the new Management Plan, it is therefore appropriate, in acknowledging this ruling, that the Committee requests the State Party to ensure the SEA is completed for the new Management Plan as required, and that this is undertaken as a matter of priority. It is important to ensure that the SEA includes a specific assessment of potential impacts of the new Management Plan on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including from potential development in areas located within its buffer zone. The new Management Plan should subsequently be developed based on the results of the completed SEA.

The management prescriptions within the new Management Plan will be fundamental to ensure the future protection of the property's OUV. However, it should be recalled that the 2018 Advisory mission raised concerns about several approaches in the draft, especially regarding grazing, forest and water resource management, and tourism including tourism-related construction and infrastructure development. It is recommended the Committee request the State Party to ensure that the new Management Plan comprehensively addresses these threats and specifies how management priorities will help to maintain the OUV of the property including protection of its integrity. In addition, the recommendations of the IUCN 2018 Advisory mission should be taken into account, to consult NGOs and other stakeholders engaged in the draft Management Plan and its implementation, and to submit the draft Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, prior to its implementation.

The court decision to repeal the amendments to the current 2004 Management Plan, introduced by the Council of Ministers in 2017, is noted. It is recalled that the World Heritage Centre and IUCN had expressed concern that the amendments would also allow for expansion of skiing infrastructure in the buffer zone of the property. The confirmation by the State Party, that in line with the court decision, no further actions have been undertaken on the development plans and proposals facilitated through these previous amendments, is therefore welcomed. It is reiterated that a common approach for future planning of socio-economic activities and development in the property, its buffer zone, adjacent municipalities and the broader region is critical for the sustainable management and protection of the property's OUV. Such an approach needs to be enabled through compliance with relevant national legislation and regulations, consistent with the State Party's obligations under the World Heritage

Convention to maintain the property's OUV and integrity. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to develop a strategic approach for all plans and programmes related to the property, which ensures that all potential future development is harmonised, coordinated and consistent with the above-mentioned regulations.

It is noted that the MOEW has approved several Investment Proposals including for additional water supply from reservoirs located within the PNP. Although the State Party reports that negative impacts on the property are unlikely, no assessment information has been provided including regarding potential impacts on the OUV. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that the potential impacts of these new projects are thoroughly assessed and that assessments are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN. Also recalling the 2018 IUCN Advisory mission recommendation, water abstraction volumes should be limited to the property's water resource capacities so as to not affect its OUV, including the natural processes and ecological functions that underpin it.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.101**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.72**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Notes the Supreme Administrative Court's final rejection of the Ministry of Environment and Water's decision that no Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is needed for the new Management Plan for Pirin National Park, and requests the State Party to:*
  - a) *Complete the SEA as a matter of priority, ensuring it includes a specific assessment of potential impacts of the new Management Plan on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, including from potential development in areas located within its buffer zone, and to submit the SEA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN,*
  - b) *Based on the SEA results, develop the new Management Plan including to ensure it comprehensively addresses all potential threats to the OUV of the property and clearly outlines how the management objectives, zoning and land use within Pirin National Park will contribute to enhancing the OUV of the property and preventing any degradation of its integrity, to take into account the relevant recommendations of the IUCN 2018 Advisory mission in the above process to consult with the NGOs and other stakeholders that have concerns regarding the content and implementation of the draft new Management Plan, and to submit a draft to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
4. *Also notes the Court's decision to repeal the amendments introduced by the Council of Ministers to the current Management Plan for Pirin National Park and welcomes the confirmation by the State Party that no further action on development plans linked to the previous amendments have been undertaken in compliance with the Court's decision;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to develop a long-term strategic approach for all plans and programmes related to the property, buffer zone and the broader region, which is agreed among all relevant stakeholders including municipalities, and which ensures that any potential future development is harmonized, coordinated and consistent with regulations protecting the property's OUV and integrity, and the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Further notes the approval of a number of Investment Proposals including for additional water supply from reservoirs located within the property, and further requests the State*

*Party to ensure that the potential impacts of these projects on the OUV of the property have been thoroughly assessed and to submit assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*

- 7. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **102. Gros Morne National Park (Canada) (N 419)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Oil and gas (petroleum exploration in the vicinity of the World Heritage property)
- Management systems/management plan (no buffer zone around the property)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 November 2019, the State Party submitted a comprehensive state of conservation report, and annexes including a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the 2019 Gros Morne National Park Management Plan, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/419/documents/>, and reporting as follows:

- The “pause” on onshore petroleum exploration using hydraulic fracturing outside the property continues to remain in place. The Federal-Provincial Land Use Committee has been established, formalising the regulatory relationship between the State Party and the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador concerning the property;
- A full assessment of the recommendations of the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydraulic Fracturing Review Panel is ongoing, during which time the pause will not be lifted. Should the pause be lifted in future, any proposed activity would be subject to applicable regulatory review process and environmental protection requirements;
- The property only covers a very small proportion of the coast of the Gulf of St Lawrence (<0.5%) and therefore monitoring of activities within the whole Gulf in relation to potential impacts on the property is not required. However, the State Party will continue to monitor for any projects that are proposed in the vicinity of the property to protect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and its ecological integrity;

- The OUV of the property was satisfactorily considered in the interim review of the SEA for the western portion of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area. There are no current calls for bids for hydraulic fracturing in the Western Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area;
- The OUV of the property was considered in the SEA for the 2019 Gros Morne National Park Management Plan, which concluded that the Plan sufficiently addresses potential threats such that there would be no residual impacts on OUV.

On 25 September and 13 December 2018 as well as on 3 January, 25 April, 26 June and 15 July 2019, the World Heritage Centre and the State Party exchanged on third party information expressing concerns regarding trail upgrades undertaken inside the property near Western Brook Pond. In addition, the State Party's report notes the ongoing upgrading of three additional trails, visitor facility improvement works and road maintenance.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The establishment of the Federal-Provincial Land Use Committee is a welcome step to collaboratively manage the areas surrounding the property. The proposed integration of World Heritage into regional planning frameworks including individual projects is an important development that aims to address the World Heritage Committee's previous concerns on the need for a buffer zone. The State Party's reassurances that the "pause" on hydraulic fracturing will not be lifted until a full assessment of the Review Panel recommendations has been completed, is appreciated. The statement that even when the pause is lifted, it would be subject to stringent environmental assessment requirements, is also noted.

Nevertheless, the mandate of the Land Use Committee appears to be limited to enhancing communication and cooperation, without the authority to take decisions or influence decision-making pertaining to proposed activities including oil and gas. Whilst acknowledging the "pause" on hydraulic fracturing, this limited mandate does not allow the Committee to prevent future oil and gas licences to be issued and hence requires further strengthening in order to meet the World Heritage Committee's request to introduce measures to prevent future oil and gas licences.

The SEA of the 2019 Management Plan states that the provincial government is yet to announce the next steps in the assessment of the Review Panel's recommendations and the pause on hydraulic fracturing, but no additional update is provided. This would appear to be key to ensuring a common understanding of timelines and expectations in terms of adopting and implementing the Review Panel's recommendations.

It is acknowledged that the assessment of activities within the entire Gulf of St Lawrence poses considerable challenges and the State Party's reassurance that the OUV of the property will be considered in project-level Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for any project proposal that may arise within the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB) jurisdiction is appreciated. Nevertheless, considering the ecological connectivity of the Gulf of St Lawrence with the property that extends beyond the jurisdictional area of C-NLOPB, it is important that activities across the Gulf be proactively monitored for potential impact on the property and management responses taken accordingly.

The State Party reported that the upgrading of the trails near Western Brook Pond were a high priority, however, the third party concerns shared with the State Party illustrate that this included significant enlargements of the infrastructure resulting in potential impacts on the property and its natural values, which should require a more detailed EIA, including a thorough stakeholder consultation process, rather than the Basic Impact Assessment that was undertaken. Noting that the project was completed in May 2019, it is important for the State Party to ensure the restoration of any damaged vegetation and landscapes. Noting that additional trails are undergoing an upgrade and road maintenance is occurring, and that it is unclear from the State Party's report whether any of the projects have undergone any type of impact assessment, and as such, clarification should be sought from the State Party. It is recommended that the State Party is requested to re-assess the impacts of the planned upgrading on the OUV and other natural values of the property, and that the upgrading is reviewed to ensure the visitor infrastructure remains non-intrusive and blends in with the landscape of the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.102**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.73**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the establishment of the Federal-Provincial Land Use Committee to collaboratively manage activities in and around the property, and strongly encourages the State Party to strengthen the mandate of this Committee to assign it decision-making powers pertaining to any future oil and gas licenses in the vicinity of the property;
4. Acknowledging the continued “pause” on hydraulic fracturing outside the property, reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that long-term, substantive measures are introduced to prevent future oil and gas licenses being awarded in the vicinity of the property, and before the “pause” on hydraulic fracturing outside the property is lifted;
5. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to clarify when a full assessment of the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydraulic Review Panel’s recommendations will be completed, and to submit the final analyses when available to the World Heritage Centre;
6. Also acknowledging the vast size of the Gulf of St Lawrence and its multi-jurisdictional spread, but considering the ecological connectivity of the Gulf with the property, requests the State Party to closely monitor any proposed and planned exploratory activity in the Gulf of St Lawrence that has the potential to impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
7. Notes with concern that the upgrade project of the Western Brook Pond was completed without sufficient Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or stakeholder consultation and also requests the State Party to ensure the restoration of any damaged vegetation and landscape;
8. Further requests the State Party to re-assess the impacts of the multiple upgrade and of the maintenance projects currently underway within the property on the OUV and other natural values of the property and to review the projects to ensure the visitor infrastructure remains non-intrusive and blends in with the landscape of the property;
9. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to invite, if the “pause” on petroleum exploration in the vicinity of the property is discontinued, a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the risks to the property’s OUV;
10. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and implementation of the above.

### 103. Plitvice Lakes National Park (Croatia) (N 98bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-1997

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1992-1998)

Total amount approved: USD 46,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

February 1992: IUCN expert mission; September 1992: Joint UNESCO/IUCN mission; September 1993: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission; May 1996: World Heritage Centre mission; January 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Armed conflict (issue resolved)
- Poaching of bears (issue resolved)
- Dynamite fishing (issue resolved)
- Destruction of the forests and park facilities (issue resolved)
- Impacts of tourism/visitors/recreation (possible over-visitation of the site)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (significant expansion of tourism facilities within the property)
- Pollution and water contamination
- Water extraction

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/98/documents/>. The State Party reports the following:

- The process of amending the Spatial Plan relating to the property is underway. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of existing, potential and cumulative impacts of the Plan, including its proposed amendments, on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is in preparation. The results of the SEA will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they become available;
- The Management Plan (MP) of the property will be amended, if considered necessary based on the results of the SEA. The zonation of the MP informs the preparation of the expert nature protection background document (ENPBD) as part of the analytical background documents for the Spatial Plan amendment, which should ensure harmonization of these different documents;
- The possible relocation of the state road crossing the property is foreseen in the current Spatial Plan in order to reduce transit traffic through the property;
- Oversight and monitoring of buildings and water have continued and are now covered under a single institution – the State Inspectorate. As a result of such activities, installation of new wastewater units by local catering and accommodation providers and an overall increase of their environmental awareness are reported;

- The Public Institution Plitvice Lakes National Park (PIPLNP) and Croatian Waters, the national organization in charge of water management operations, have established permanent water monitoring, which includes physical, chemical, micro-biological and ecological indicators;
- Two projects were launched with the aim of addressing unsustainable water use and water pollution issues. The planned “agglomeration project” will address wastewater collection and treatment system, including the area of the Plitvice Lakes National Park and is expected to be completed by 2023. Planned improvements of the water supply system are currently in an analysis phase with the objective to identify the optimal technical solution;
- An online booking system to better manage visitation especially during peak times is operational and monitoring of impacts and visitor numbers has been ongoing since 2019. This will allow corrections to the defined carrying capacities if considered necessary;
- As a consequence of climate change, the median water temperature has increased and water flow has slightly decreased.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The efforts by the State Party to implement the Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2017 Reactive Monitoring mission are welcomed, in particular, actions aimed at improving the management of wastewater and water supply. Nevertheless, the investment projects to bring a long-term solution for the water pollution and supply problems still remain at the planning phase.

The efforts of the State Party to develop the SEA as part of the process of amending the Spatial Plan for the property, and confirmation that these processes have been informed by the Management Plan, are noted. While the State Party has confirmed that the results of the SEA will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once available, it has not provided a timeframe for completion of the SEA and this process should also be finalised as soon as possible.

While some information was provided on the new visitor management system, the State Party has not provided detailed information on the results of monitoring impacts of visitation, and whether or not the exponential increase of visitor numbers has continued or is levelling out as a result of the new system. In 2018, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN noted that the draft Visitor Management Plan focused on the carrying capacity of the park’s infrastructure and how it could be expanded rather than on the carrying capacity of the ecosystem and the attributes that demonstrate its OUV. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to further elaborate the plan to emphasize the preservation of the property’s OUV as the primary objective and to determine the carrying capacity based on environmental parameters and strict scientific criteria. In this context, the relocation of the state road crossing the property should also be encouraged, in order to reduce the impacts of transit traffic through the property.

Overall, while some progress has been achieved in addressing the issues of water supply and wastewater management, as well as visitor management, it should be recalled that the World Heritage Committee considered that the inadequate water supply and drainage system, water pollution risks and continued exponential growth of visitation at the property represented a potential danger to its OUV, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Therefore, until it can be confirmed that the solutions developed by the State Party have been effective in addressing these threats, it is considered that the OUV of the property remains vulnerable. It is crucial that the implementation of the projects to address water pollution and water supply issues are accelerated. It is important to also include in future reporting the results of the on-going water quality monitoring.

It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue careful monitoring of visitation and associated impacts and, depending on the results, to introduce further mitigation measures, including caps on visitor numbers. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide in its next report on the state of conservation of the property, detailed information confirming the evolution of visitor numbers and associated impacts, as well as an assessment of the effectiveness of the newly introduced visitor management system in addressing the exponential visitation growth.



## **Draft Decision 44 COM 7B.103**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.74**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Welcomes the on-going efforts of the State Party to implement decisions of the Committee and the recommendations of the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to continue these efforts, including specifically the timely completion of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as part of the process of amending the Spatial Plan for the property;*
4. *Also welcomes the progress made by the State Party to address the issue of wastewater management and water supply, but notes that the investment projects to bring a long-term solution for the water pollution and unsustainable water use problems still remain at the planning phase and therefore, urges the State Party to accelerate the implementation of these projects and to include in future reporting to the Committee the results of the on-going monitoring of water quality and use;*
5. *Also recalling that the inadequate water supply and drainage system, water pollution risks and continued exponential growth of visitation at the property represented a potential danger to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, considers that, until it can be confirmed that the solutions developed by the State Party have been effective in addressing these threats, the OUV of the property remains vulnerable;*
6. *Takes note of the establishment of a new visitor management system but reiterates that visitor management in the property should be based primarily on minimizing threats to the property's OUV, including directly linking the carrying capacity to the associated attributes, and also requests the State Party to carefully monitor visitation and associated impacts and to introduce further mitigation measures, including caps on visitor numbers where required;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to pursue the planned by-pass to relocate the state road outside the property;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022** an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including detailed information confirming the evolution of visitor numbers and associated impacts, as well as an assessment of the effectiveness of the newly introduced visitor management system in addressing the exponential visitation growth and confirming the completion of the wastewater treatment project.*

## 104. Durmitor National Park (Montenegro) (N 100bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (vii)(viii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/100/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1981-1988)

Total amount approved: USD 117,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/100/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 40,000 by UNESCO Venice Office; USD 50,000 under the Participation Programme

### Previous monitoring missions

1996 and 2005: Joint UNESCO/IUCN missions; November 2018: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission; October/November 2019: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (proposed dam development on the Tara River)
- Illegal logging and hunting (issue resolved)
- Tourism infrastructure (ski development in the Zabljak area)
- Boundary issues

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/100/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/100/documents>, providing the following information:

- The State Party has temporarily suspended all plans for a potential expansion of ski zones inside the property and had invited a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission to make recommendations and next steps, which visited the property from 31 October to 1 November 2019. The mission's findings are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/100/documents>;
- In response to Committee Decision **43 COM 7B.19**, the government adopted a decision to change the amendments to the Special Purpose Spatial Plan for Durmitor Region (SPSP), and submitted this decision to the World Heritage Centre on 5 December 2019;
- The same decision launched the process of defining potentially new boundaries of the property, in accordance with Decision **43 COM 7B.19** and the recommendations of the 2005 mission. Preparations and consultations for the designation of a buffer zone for the property are underway, taking into account the existing buffer zone of Durmitor National Park as a starting point;
- The revision of a previously developed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the newly constructed water pipeline inside the property, will be conducted soon in line with the IUCN Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;
- Local communities have submitted a petition to change the route of an existing transmission line, away from settlements, as part of a planned upgrade currently being discussed by national authorities;
- Downstream impacts from the construction of the Bar-Boljare motorway crossing Tara River are being monitored on a monthly basis. Increased water turbidity and sediment accumulation result in the depletion of fauna, which is expected to be temporary in nature. Monitoring will be continued in 2020 and will inform remediation measures;

- It is planned to prepare an Integrated Management Plan in consultation with the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme.

On 25 May 2020, the State Party submitted additional documentation regarding the plans for a power transmission line Lastva-Pljevlja, which would cross the property, and an alternative route that is being considered, following the above-mentioned petition by local communities. IUCN provided a Technical review of the information received, which was transmitted to the State Party on 14 August 2020.

On 1 July 2020, the State Party submitted documentation about a proposed development of a five-star hotel facility within the property. The World Heritage Centre transmitted the IUCN review of this proposal on 6 October 2020.

On 6 October 2020, the World Heritage Centre requested information from the States Parties of Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina about third party information it received on the planned hydroelectric power plant "Buk Bijela" located on the Drina River in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the municipality of Foca and downstream of the property.

On 16 October 2020, IUCN provided comments on a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) assessing the draft amendments to the SPSP.

On 14 December 2020, the State Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina provided information and documentation to the World Heritage Centre, which requested it on 21 December 2020 to transmit the EIA of the planned project dated 2012 in one of the working languages of the *Convention* for IUCN's review.

On 15 March 2021, the World Heritage Centre transmitted IUCN's comments to the incoming information of 14 December 2021 of the State Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The State Party of Montenegro transmitted comments to the World Heritage Centre on 26 March 2021, as presented in the analysis below.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The clear and immediate action by the State Party to address conservation issues identified by the Committee in its Decision **43 COM 7B.19** and to implement the recommendations of the 2018 mission, including reconsidering the boundary modification of Durmitor National Park under national law and the establishment of a buffer zone for the property, should be welcomed. The State Party should also be commended for launching the process of amending the SPSP and for suspending all plans for a potential expansion of ski zones inside the property until the 2019 Advisory mission provides recommendations on possible next steps.

The 2019 Advisory mission reviewed the plans for a proposed extension of the Savin Kuk ski area and concluded that it would result in likely direct impacts on natural habitats and visual impacts. The mission therefore considered that new ski areas (ski runs, lifts, etc.) should be explicitly prohibited and that this should be clearly articulated in the revised SPSP, and recommended the State Party to exclude the possibility of any encroachment of new ski lifts and ski runs and associated infrastructure in the property. The mission further recommended that any modernisation of existing ski lifts and ski runs remains within exactly the same limited area closely following the existing routes, not allowing for any expansion or extension, and that the ski lifts should be operated within the limits of the current capacity of the existing ski runs. The mission further recommended that, in light of warming climatic conditions and in order to ensure the effective conservation of the property, the State Party should consider completely phasing out the use of the Savin Kuk slopes for skiing in the long-term, and to prioritise less impactful forms of tourism within the property. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party, in line with its previous commitments, to implement the recommendations of the 2019 mission, in addition to the recommendations of the 2018 Advisory mission.

However, the draft amendments to the SPSP still foresee the possibility of expanding ski areas and infrastructures inside the property, according to a SEA assessing these amendments. This is of utmost concern, especially as the SEA concludes that such expansions would entail major and negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The proposed five-star hotel development in the property also shows that plans for tourism developments inside the property continue to be put forward. It is recommended that the Committee reiterates its requests not to pursue with the construction of tourism infrastructure inside the property as this may have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, encouraging the State Party to develop a sustainable tourism management strategy for the property.

It is noted that the already confirmed route for an upgraded transmission line may be changed. The State Party has submitted more details on the alternative route and IUCN in its review notes that this alternative should only be accepted on the condition that negative impacts on OUV can be averted.

While it is appreciated that the State Party is monitoring the downstream impacts of the construction of the Bar-Boljare motorway, the current, reportedly temporary, impacts continue to be of concern. It is recommended that the State Party provide more specific information on any downstream impacts inside the property, and the status of key species contributing to the OUV of the property, including a confirmation of the status of the Danube Salmon, which is an important attribute of OUV.

Regarding the hydroelectric power plant project “Buk Bijela”, it is important to recall the findings of the 2005 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission concluding that the project would constitute a potential threat to the property. It is recommended that the Committee recall its Decision **29 COM 7B.21** which requested the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to fully respect the *Convention*, in particular Article 6.3, and not to take any action to threaten the values and integrity of a property located on the territory of another State Party to this *Convention*. In communication with the World Heritage Centre, the State Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina confirmed that the new “Buk Bijela” project is significantly smaller in scale, and that an EIA, conducted in 2012, concluded that there would not be any significant environmental impacts on Montenegrin territory. However, the rich fish fauna of Tara River represents an attribute of OUV of the property and includes the migratory Danube Salmon (*Hucho hucho*), which is threatened by dam constructions and which is endangered according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to request the State Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina to assess any potential impacts on the OUV of the property in line with IUCN’s Advice Note on Environmental Assessment and in cooperation with the State Party of Montenegro. This update of the existing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should subsequently be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN.

Finally, it is welcomed that the State Party has started the process of establishing a buffer zone for the property, reconsidering the boundary modification of the National Park in line with the recommendations of the 2005 mission, and the property’s management to favour sustainable tourism, which is consistent with the recommendations of the 2018 mission. The State Party’s systematic and regular consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN is much appreciated.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.104**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.19**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes that the State Party has started implementing the recommendations of the 2018 mission, including reorienting the property’s management to favour sustainable tourism and reconsidering the proposed boundary modification in line with the recommendations of the 2005 and 2018 missions, as well as the process of establishing a buffer zone for the property;*
4. *Requests the State Party to further consult with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN before enacting any revision of the boundaries of the National Park under national law as well as on the proposed buffer zone for the property;*
5. *Also recalling that an expansion of ski infrastructure developments inside the property would constitute an ascertained danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines, also welcomes the State Party’s decision to suspend all plans for a potential expansion of ski zones inside the property until the 2019 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Advisory mission provides recommendations on possible next steps;*
6. *Takes note of the conclusions of the 2019 Advisory mission that the proposed expansion of the Savin Kuk ski area inside the property would represent a serious conservation issue resulting in likely direct impacts on natural habitats and visual impacts on the*

property, also requests the State Party to implement all mission recommendations, jointly with the recommendations of the 2018 mission, in particular not to expand the Savin Kuk ski zone in terms of scope and capacity, prohibiting new ski runs and lifts and ensuring that any modernisation of existing ski lifts remains within exactly the same limited area closely following the existing routes;

7. Notes with utmost concern, however, that the proposed amendments to the Spatial Plan for Durmitor National Park still foresee the possibility of expanding ski areas and infrastructures inside the property and that further tourism infrastructure developments within the property are continuing to be considered, and therefore, reiterates its request not to pursue with the construction of tourism infrastructure inside the property as this might have a negative impact on its OUV, and to develop a sustainable tourism management strategy for the property in line with the recommendations of the 2018 and 2019 missions;
8. Appreciates that the State Party continuously monitors downstream impacts of the construction of the Bar-Boljare motorway, but notes with concern the negative impacts on the Tara river, and requests furthermore the State Party to confirm the status of key species contributing to OUV, including the status of the Danube Salmon, and any other downstream impacts precipitating inside the property;
9. Further recalling its Decision **29 COM 7B.21** and the conclusion of the 2005 Reactive Monitoring mission that the hydroelectric power plant project “Buk Bijela” would constitute a potential threat to the property, expresses its concern about the revival of the project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, though at a significantly smaller scale, and potential negative impacts on attributes of OUV of the property, such as the rich fish fauna of Tara River, including the endangered Danube Salmon, and therefore, requests moreover the State Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina to assess jointly with the State Party of Montenegro any potential impacts on the OUV of the property and to submit an updated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in line with IUCN’s Advice Note on Environmental Assessment to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## **105. Central Sikhote-Alin (Russian Federation) (N 766bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/766/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/766/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of the significant boundary modification:

- Incomplete process of configuration and designation of the property's buffer zone
- Need to finalize the Integrated Management Plan for the extension

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/766/>

### Current conservation issues

On 10 February 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/766/documents/>, and on 5 March 2020, the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the World Heritage property "Central Sikhote-Alin" (2019-2023). The State Party provides the following information:

- The IMP outlines the conservation and protection measures, educational work, and research and monitoring activities for each component. The main threats to the property are identified as poaching, forest fires and unregulated tourism. A joint Action Plan for managing the property is proposed. To bridge gaps for an integrated management it is suggested, among other tasks, to create a Coordinative Council and joint operational groups and sign a trilateral agreement between the components;
- In the Bikin River Valley component, indigenous peoples' interests such as hunting and fishing, tourism and settlements are considered through the new Council of Indigenous Minorities within the administration of the National Park. The park authority is collaborating with indigenous groups to create a network of tourist routes through Bikin River Valley to experience nature and culture. Several events were held to promote conservation, including festivals celebrating indigenous traditions;
- The Sikhote-Alin Strict Nature Reserve component continues to face threats from outside its boundaries, particularly the large forest plantations along its perimeters, which were all impacted by logging or forest fires in 2019, affecting migrating ungulate populations;
- Overall, the components are reported to be well preserved. Results of annual monitoring, including Amur tiger and Amur goral populations, show an upward trend for these species and a general stable state of the reserve's ecosystems. Anti-poaching activities have improved, including increased numbers of patrols, new vehicles for inspectors and adaptive raid management based on computerised monitoring results;
- Some threats remain and new threats have emerged. A new flight route established between Vladivostok and Terney in 2015 has led to a threefold increase in the number of tourists to the Strict Nature Reserve. In Bikin River Valley, unauthorised fishing, use of all-terrain vehicles and accessibility from the Terney district are of particular concern. The impact of tourism and recreational load is being monitored annually along tourist routes;
- No significant changes to the property boundaries are envisioned, however the IMP includes an action to increase the territory of the Strict Nature Reserve.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The submission of an IMP is welcomed. However, it is noted that the components of the property are still largely managed separately and will need to be further consolidated and strengthened. It is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to establish the Coordinative Council for integrated management as a matter of priority and implement other tasks proposed in the Joint Action Plan of the IMP that will enhance integrated management of the property.

The progress on finalizing the buffer zone around Bikin River Valley is welcomed. However, noting that the majority of its width is limited to 1km, the concern raised by the 2018 IUCN Evaluation of the extension regarding the potential capacity of the buffer zone to effectively provide ecological connectivity, remains. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to finalize the

formalization of the buffer zone, consistent with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines* and the recommendations of the IUCN Evaluation.

The establishment of the Council of Indigenous Minorities, continued collaboration to ensure indigenous peoples' rights and interests are respected, as well as efforts to preserve the traditional way of life in the Bikin National Park all strengthen the efforts to engage local indigenous peoples, which were noted at the time of Decision **42 COM 8B.9**. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue this work.

The increased anti-poaching activities and education are welcomed. Monitoring results showing an upward trend of the Amur tiger population are positive, however, no information was provided on the development of a long-term vision to enhance connectivity with other protected and non-protected tiger habitats, as was encouraged by the World Heritage Committee. In this regard, the commitment of the State Party to increase the territory of the Sikhote-Alin Strict Nature Reserve is noted, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide further information on this process and how it would address the recommendations made by the Committee regarding a connectivity strategy for Amur tiger habitat.

It is noted with concern that large-scale logging around the Sikhote-Alin Strict Nature Reserve is having a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and that the dense network of timber harvesting roads is increasing every year, allowing access to remote areas and leading to greater risk of poaching and forest fires. To address these issues, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to designate an adequate buffer zone for the component and consider strengthening logging regulations around the property.

Regarding tourism, although numbers remain relatively low despite a threefold increase due to the opening of a new direct flight from Vladivostok in 2015, it is noted that unregulated tourism, including visitors from nearby regions and recreational activities such as uncontrolled fishing and other resource use, are impacting negatively on the property's OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to effectively regulate tourism and recreational activities and prepare a tourism management strategy that clearly defines the type of activities permitted and outlines how impacts of tourism and recreational use on the OUV of the property will be controlled.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.105**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.84**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018)
3. Welcomes the submission of an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property, but considers that management of the components of the property will need to be further consolidated and therefore requests the State Party to establish a Coordinative Council for integrated management of all component parts, as foreseen in the IMP, as a matter of priority, and to complete the tasks listed in the Joint Action Plan of the IMP;
4. Also welcomes the establishment of the Council of Indigenous Minorities, and the continued collaboration and dialogue with indigenous peoples, as well as efforts to showcase and preserve the traditional way of life in the Bikin National Park, and encourages the State Party to continue this work;
5. Further welcomes the progress on finalizing the designation of a buffer zone around the Bikin River Valley component, however notes with concern that the current proposal appears to suggest only a very narrow buffer zone, and that large-scale logging activities and the associated increase in forest roads along the boundaries of the Sikhote-Alin Strict Nature Reserve are negatively affecting the property's Outstanding Universal

Value (OUV) and leading to greater risk of poaching and forest fires, and also requests the State Party to:

- a) Further develop a proposal for an adequate formal buffer zone for the Bikin River Valley component, in line with the recommendations of the 2018 IUCN Evaluation and Decision **42 COM 8B.9**,
  - b) Establish at the same time a formal buffer zone for the Sikhote-Alin Strict Nature Reserve within which logging activities are prohibited, and strengthen the regulation of logging activities in the vicinity of the property beyond the buffer zone,
  - c) Ensure that the process of designating an adequate buffer zone for the property is undertaken in a coordinated manner across all components,
  - d) Submit the proposal for a consolidated buffer zone through a Minor Boundary Modification procedure, in conformity with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Welcomes furthermore the State Party's commitment to increase the territory of the Sikhote-Alin Strict Nature Reserve and further requests the State Party to provide further information on this process and how it would address the recommendations made by the Committee regarding the connectivity of the Amur tiger habitat;
7. Also notes with concern the increase in access routes, unregulated tourism and recreational use of the property leading to potential negative impacts on its OUV, and therefore requests furthermore the State Party to regulate tourism and recreational activities within the property and its buffer zones and prepare a tourism management strategy that clearly defines the type of activities permitted and outlines how impacts of tourism and recreational use will be monitored and controlled;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 106. Golden Mountains of Altai (Russian Federation) (N 768rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

2001: Joint UNESCO/UNDP mission; 2007 and 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions



### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major linear utilities (gas pipeline construction plans)
- Ground transport infrastructure (impacts of a road project across the property)
- Impacts of tourism / visitors / recreation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/>

### Current conservation issues

On 31 January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/768/documents/> and provides some information in relation to previous Committee decisions:

- The State Party reaffirms again that the route of the proposed Altai gas pipeline would pass around the property, as confirmed at the trilateral meeting between the heads of state of China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation in 2018. At the same time, no investment decision has been taken yet regarding the construction of the 'Power of Siberia-2' gas pipeline;
- Currently, half of Teletskoye Lake is under no formal national protective regime. As such, illegal fishing takes place in the unprotected areas of the lake;
- The project to design a buffer zone for the Katunskiy Strict Nature Reserve, which would include part of Mount Belukha, has continued;
- Several recommendations included in the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission have been addressed. Notably:
  - Implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed between the Katunskiy Reserve management and the Administration of Protected Areas of the Mongolian Altai, foresees transboundary conservation efforts and joint research and monitoring activities,
  - Katunskiy Reserve has established a platform for involvement of local communities into conservation of the property in the form of a Public Council.

Additional information provided by the State Party on 5 March 2020 states that Kontinet LLC currently holds a license for geological exploration and mining of placer gold in the Maly Kolychak deposit, which expires 11 August 2027. The State Party advises that the licensed area lies outside the boundaries of the property, that there is currently no indication that the company has violated any conditions of the license, and that if information indicating any such violation is received, early termination of the license will be considered in accordance with the relevant laws.

Additionally, on 10 March 2020, the State Party submitted information regarding the water protection zones of Lake Teletskoye, noting that the boundaries of the water protection zone and coastal protective strips have been delineated and marked by signage, and that this information will soon be entered into the relevant cadastre.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The restated confirmation that the Altai gas pipeline would pass around the property is welcomed. However, it is regrettable that no further information on the exact alternative route of the pipeline was provided, as previously and explicitly requested by the Committee. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide additional information on the exact alternative route of the proposed pipeline, and continue to update the World Heritage Centre on the status of the project, reiterating that any decision to route the pipeline through the property would constitute a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines.

It is noted with concern that a significant area of Lake Teletskoye remains under no formal protective legislation, especially since this is currently resulting in illegal fishing with its potentially negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Unfortunately, no further information is provided on the extension of the Strict Nature Reserve to cover the entire basin of the lake. In its previous report, the State Party had announced that it was envisaged to extend the Strict Nature Reserve status to cover the second bank and basin of Teletskoye Lake and the Committee expressed its strong support for this initiative (Decision **43 COM 7B.16**). It is also noted that no updated information on the status of the planned tourism infrastructure project on Lake Teletskoye is provided. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide detailed information about the exact

location of the proposed tourism infrastructure and not to approve the project until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken, which specifically assesses potential impacts on the property's OUV.

The information provided that the Maly Kolychak gold mine project is located outside the property, and that the State Party would take corrective action should the Kontinent LLC mining company violate terms of its license, is noted. However, the State Party does not provide any information on the current status of the project nor whether it has been subject to an EIA, which fully considers the potential impact on the property's OUV. Furthermore, no additional information was provided relating to the Brekchiya gold mining project, as requested by the Committee. It is therefore recommended that, - recalling its established position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status - the Committee request the State Party to ensure any current or proposed mining operations within the Brekchiya and/or Maly Kolychak deposits are subject to a full EIA, and to submit any EIAs to the World Heritage Centre, once available.

It is welcomed that the State Party has continued progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2012 Reactive Monitoring mission, notably the implementation of a MoU between the Katunsky Reserve and the Administration of Protected Areas of the Mongolian Altai. It remains important that momentum is maintained between the States Parties of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Mongolia to continue consolidating these efforts and building on the gains made to protect the property.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.106**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.26**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Regretting that the State Party did not provide sufficiently elaborated information on the different points raised by the Committee in its previous Decision,*
4. *Welcomes the restated confirmation by the State Party that the Altai gas pipeline would pass around the property, however reiterates its request to the State Party to provide additional information on the exact alternative route of the pipeline, and to continue to update the World Heritage Centre on the status of the project, also recalling that any decision to route the Altai gas pipeline through the property would constitute a clear case for inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Notes the information about the delineation and demarcation of water protection zones of Lake Teletskoye, but noting with concern that half of the lake remains without appropriate legal protection regime and that the State Party has not provided any information on the proposed extension of the Strict Nature Reserve to ensure legal protective status over the entire Lake Teleskoye, recalls its strong support for this initiative and urges the State Party to provide further information on its status;*
6. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to provide detailed information about the exact location of the proposed tourism infrastructure at Lake Teletskoye and not to approve the project until an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken, including a specific assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with IUCN's Advice Note on Environmental Assessment;*
7. *Also recalling its established position that mining is incompatible with World Heritage status, also urges the State Party to ensure that any current or proposed mining*

*operations within the Brekchiya or Maly Kolychak deposits are subject to a full EIA, which specifically assesses the potential impact on the property's OUV, in line with IUCN's Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit these EIAs to the World Heritage Centre for consideration by IUCN, once available;*

8. *Encourages again the States Parties of the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and Mongolia to continue consolidating efforts to engage in transboundary conservation measures, including within the framework of the World Heritage Convention;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **107. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation (N 754))**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1990-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 33,200

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

1998: World Heritage Centre monitoring mission; 2001: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; 2005: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; 2011: Joint UNESCO/IUCN mission; 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Gas and oil pipeline project across the World Heritage property in 2006 (issue resolved)
- Management Systems/Management Plan (lack of adequate management system)
- Legal framework (uncertain legal protection)
- Pollution from paper mill and domestic wastewater
- Illegal activities (timber harvesting, construction on the lake shore, sale of land)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (tourism development)
- Fire (wildfires in the Baikal region in 2015)
- Upstream planned and existing dam infrastructure in Russia and Mongolia

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/>

### Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/754/documents/>, reporting the following:

- The previously permitted expansion of water level limits in Lake Baikal (2016-2017) was extended by a Decree (December 27, 2017) "On maximum and minimum values of the water level in Lake Baikal in 2018-2020";

- Due to persisting low-water conditions, measures were introduced to minimise lake level fluctuations;
- An assessment of the impact on the Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) of the property from the water level regime concluded that from 2014-2019 no damage was caused to the environment by ranges of fluctuations in the Lake Baikal level;
- The joint Russian-Mongolian working group noted the importance of implementing comprehensive environmental, social and economic assessment of any planned hydro-technical facilities to identify risks to Lake Baikal and its tributaries and has agreed to analyse the cumulative effect of planned projects, water resources and electricity consumption over the next 20 years;
- A significant decrease in fish stocks in several parts of the lake, adjacent lakes and rivers, as well as continued eutrophication is reported;
- A draft Action Plan to improve the system for forest fire protection was developed.

The World Heritage Centre sent several letters to the State Party, requesting clarification regarding third party information raising concerns about following issues:

- On 2 April 2019, regarding potential weakening of the regulations on allowable levels of pollutants discharging into Lake Baikal;
- On 26 February 2020, regarding various issues including eutrophication, invasive species, pollution, uncontrolled tourism and proposed weakening of regulations;
- On 23 April 2020, regarding selection without a proper competitive process of a company for the liquidation of the toxic waste from the former Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM);
- On 13, 22 and 30 July and 7 August 2020, regarding proposed new legislation that would allow certain investment projects to be exempted from the compulsory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures; new legislation removing the requirement to undertake impact assessment for certain infrastructure projects; the new draft of the “List of activities prohibited in the Central Ecological zone of the Baikal Nature Territory”, which would exempt certain investment projects, and proposed amendments to the “Law on the Protection of Lake Baikal” facilitating conversion of forest lands;
- On 16 September 2020, regarding legislative modifications to remove binding limits of the water level fluctuation of Lake Baikal mandated by the Law on the Protection of Lake Baikal and further on 2 November 2020 regarding allowable limits for dam flow and resulting fluctuations in the level of Lake Baikal;
- On 11 January 2021, regarding the amendment of the “List of Activities Prohibited at Lake Baikal Nature Territory” to potentially allow more economic activities within the property and further weakening of environmental regulations;
- On 19, 25 January and 30 March 2021, regarding the modifications to federal law pertaining to the allowable water level fluctuations of Lake Baikal among other weakening of regulatory restrictions, as well as other threats that continue to affect the property.

The State Party replied on 15 April 2021, noting that in 2018 new boundaries of the Lake Baikal water protection zone were approved, which resulted in exclusion of some additional inter-settlement areas, but that this is not expected to result in any negative impact on the property. Regarding the water level fluctuations, it is reported that a permanent regulatory document is currently being considered, which would provide for an extended range of water level regulation under conditions of extreme high or extreme low water level.

On 15 March 2019, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party of Mongolia requesting clarification regarding third party information about the current status of the Regional Environmental Assessment (REA) for the planned hydropower projects in Mongolia. The State Party of Mongolia replied on 4 April 2019 providing updated Terms of Reference (ToR) of the REA and confirming that it will include many elements of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and on 17 May 2019, outlining the planned process for the development of the REA for the Shuren and Orkhon projects and the requested additional study on biodiversity impacts of the planned Egiin Gol hydropower plant project (EGHPP).

On 18 November 2019, the State Party of Mongolia sent further information on the implementation of Decision **42 COM 7B.76**. A French and Mongolian consortium has been selected to conduct the additional 15-month study on potential impacts of the EGHP project on the biodiversity of Selenge River and Lake Baikal, and the joint Mongolian-Russian Working Group has agreed on the ToR for the REA. At the time of preparing this report, no additional information has been provided to the World Heritage Centre.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

A number of factors have continued to negatively affect the property resulting in continued deterioration of its ecological condition. Of particular concern is the weakening of existing regulatory framework through amendments to existing laws, and the introduction of new legislation that would relax allowable levels of pollutants. While some of these proposed changes have not been approved yet, the scale of the weakening of the regulatory provisions, at the time when the property's ecological condition continues to deteriorate, is such that it can be concluded that, if all these legislative changes proceed, the property would face potential danger in line with Paragraph 180(b) i) and iv) of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is therefore recommended that the World Heritage Committee urge the State Party to undertake a comprehensive review of all proposed legislative changes and their interdependencies that could potentially affect the property, and urge it not to approve any changes that would dilute the existing protection regime of the property. It is further recommended that based on this review, the Law on the Protection of Lake Baikal is strengthened to ensure the protection of the OUV of the property through a cross-sectoral approach.

While the information provided by the State Party regarding the measures undertaken to minimise water level fluctuations following a number of years of drought in the region causing low lake levels is noted, it is regrettable that the Committee's request to undertake a complete and comprehensive EIA of the impacts of existing water use and management regulations on the OUV of the property has not been implemented. This is of particular concern given the confirmation by the State Party that a permanent regulatory document that provides for an extended range of water level regulation is currently being considered. While the information that the research project on the links between water levels and the ecological conditions of the Lake did not observe any damage on the environment is noted, such assessment cannot replace a comprehensive EIA, requested by the Committee. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to revoke any amendments which allow changes of the limits on fluctuation and not to approve any further regulatory changes until the impacts of all existing water use and management regulations on the OUV of the property are fully understood through a complete and comprehensive EIA.

It is also regrettable that the State Party did not provide any further information on the different projects developed in the different Special Economic Zones (SEZ) located within or overlapping with the property, nor on the EIA. The reported increase of illegal constructions on the lake shore, even within protected areas, is also of major concern. It is recommended the Committee reiterate its request to submit as a matter of urgency a SEA for all SEZs regarding existing and future developments and their cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property and urges the State Party to address the problem of illegal constructions.

It is further regrettable that no information has been provided by the State Party regarding the planned EIA for the remediation of the former BPPM site. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to develop and submit this EIA and, ensure that the best possible options are chosen in terms of selection of technologies and implementing entities.

While welcoming efforts to address forest fire protection, no information was provided on the assessment of impacts of forest fires on the lake ecosystem, as requested by the Committee.

It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the increasing deterioration of the ecological conditions of the property and to review the threat posed to it by the different legislative changes, the existing and proposed developments in the SEZ and the remediation plans for the former BPPM, ensuring that, given the complexity of the issues, the mission can meet with all the relevant national and regional authorities and has access to all relevant legislative documents. It is further recommended that, in order to be able to assess the full range of issues potentially affecting the hydrological and ecological conditions of the property, the mission should be given an opportunity to discuss relevant issues with the representatives of the State Party of Mongolia through appropriate means.

The report by the State Party of Mongolia that the ToR for the REA for Shuren and Orkhon hydropower projects have now been finalised and an international consortium will conduct a separate 15-month study on potential impacts of the EGHP project on the biodiversity of the property, are noted. While the confirmation that the REA will include elements of an SEA, as well as cumulative impact assessment, energy and water option studies, as well as legal and institutional assessments, is welcomed, it remains unclear how this process would specifically address the Committee's request to the States Parties to develop a transboundary SEA. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its requests to the States Parties in this regard.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.107**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.22, 40 COM 7B.97, 41 COM 7B.6 and 42 COM 7B.76**, adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 42nd (Manama, 2018) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with utmost concern several proposed amendments to existing legislation and new laws, which would significantly weaken the existing regulatory framework in terms of requirements for impact assessments and allowable levels of pollutants, and considers that the scale of this weakening of the regulatory provisions, at the time when the property's ecological conditions continue to deteriorate, is such that, if all proposed changes proceed, the property would face potential danger in line with Paragraph 180(b) i) and iv) of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Requests the State Party to undertake a comprehensive review of all proposed legislative changes and their interdependencies, that could potentially affect the property and urges the State Party not to approve any changes that would weaken the existing protection regime of the property and strengthen the Law on the Protection of Lake Baikal to ensure that the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property can be guaranteed through a cross-sectoral approach;*
5. *Notes the information provided by the State Party that no damage has been observed on the environment as a result of measures taken on water level fluctuations, but regrets that its request to undertake a complete and comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the impacts of existing water use and management regulations on the OUV of the property has not been implemented;*
6. *Urges again the State Party to revoke all amendments introducing changes of the limits on fluctuation and not to introduce any further regulatory changes providing for further extension of the range of allowed water level fluctuation until the impacts of all existing water use and management regulations on the OUV of the property are fully understood through a complete and comprehensive EIA and also requests the State Party to submit the EIA to World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
7. *Also regrets that no information has been provided by the State Party regarding the remediation of the former Baikalsk Pulp and Paper Mill (BPPM) site, nor regarding the planned EIA for this process, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and submit this EIA including an assessment of possible options for the future uses of the site and their potential impacts on the OUV of the property, for review by IUCN, and also urges the State Party to ensure that the best possible options are chosen in terms of selection of technologies and implementing entities;*

8. Regrets once again that the State Party did not submit either the results of the EIAs for each Special Economic Zone (SEZ) located within or overlapping with the property or a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for all SEZs regarding existing and future developments and their cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, and further urges the State Party to complete these assessments as a matter of priority and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as they are available;
9. Expresses concern about the reported increase of illegal constructions on the lake shore, even within protected areas and urges furthermore the State Party to address this threat as a matter of urgency;
10. Welcomes the draft action plan to improve the system for forest fire protection within the property, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to also provide an update on the assessment of impacts of forest fires on the lake ecosystem;
11. Takes note of the information provided by the State Party of Mongolia that the Terms of Reference for the Regional Environmental Assessment for the proposed Shuren and Orkhon hydropower projects have been finalized, and further requests the State Party to clarify how this process will be linked with the development of a transboundary SEA, as requested by the Committee;
12. Acknowledges the further progress on the planned study on the impacts of the Egiin Gol hydropower plant project (EGHPP) on the biodiversity of the property, and further reiterates its request to the State Party of Mongolia to take into account the findings and recommendations of the 2015 mission, especially regarding assessing impacts on the habitats of endangered migratory freshwater species of the Selenga/Lake Baikal complex, and to submit this study to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as it is available;
13. Reiterates furthermore its request to the States Parties of Mongolia and the Russian Federation to implement the recommendations of the 2015 mission as well as the requests in Decisions **39 COM 7B.22**, **40 COM 7B.97**, **41 COM 7B.6** and **42 COM 7B.76**, and to jointly develop a transboundary SEA for any existing and planned hydropower and water management projects ensuring that its results guide the elaboration of EIAs of any specific individual projects, including the planned Shuren hydropower and Orkhon river projects;
14. Requests furthermore the State Party of the Russian Federation to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to review the threat posed to it by the different legislative changes, the existing and proposed developments in the SEZ and the remediation plans for the former BPPM, ensuring that, given the complexity of the issues, the mission members can meet with all the relevant national and regional authorities and has access to all relevant legislative documents, including the abovementioned comprehensive review of recent legislative changes, which should be compiled prior to the mission;
15. Requests moreover the States Parties of the Russian Federation and Mongolia to organize a meeting, through appropriate means, with the Reactive Monitoring mission team to allow the mission to assess the full range of issues potentially affecting the hydrological and ecological conditions of the property;
16. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022, **with a view to considering in the absence of substantial**

***progress in addressing the above, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.***

## **108. Virgin Komi Forest (Russian Federation (N 719))**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1995

Criteria (vii)(ix)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management and institutional factors (changes to the boundaries of Yugyd Va National Park)
- Mining (gold mining inside the property)
- Tourism (need for a sustainable tourism management strategy)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/>

### Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/719/documents/> and provides the following information:

- No exploration or extraction of minerals has been carried out within the property, including within the Chudnoe gold deposit area. ZAO 'Gold Minerals' has removed mine-drilling equipment from the gold deposit area, however large sized equipment and infrastructure remains. The report also states that the issues of the mining has not been resolved;
- The 2016-2020 Business Plan and a Management Plan for the Yugyd Va National Park (YVNP) continues to be implemented. The necessity to approve the new boundaries of the protected area and its regulation are also highlighted;
- No large-scale forestry operations have been undertaken within the boundaries or in the immediate vicinity of the property;
- No natural disasters, which may have caused significant damage to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, have occurred. The fire station in YVNP continued its operation in 2019, and aviation patrols carried out fire monitoring surveys;
- Tourism infrastructure has been developed including tourist and hiking routes in both components, and parking, information and warning signs in YVNP. In Pechoro-Ilychskiy Nature Reserve (PINR), a temporary helipad was built to provide direct access for tourists to the Manpupuner plateau. In 2018, 414 tourists visited the plateau via these means, which is reported to have decreased the pressure on the main hiking trail to the plateau. Increased patrols and control of visitors in PINR have resulted in a lower number of park rule violations than in previous years;



- Long-term ecological and climatic monitoring work has continued, including a new project to survey wild deer population in YVNP;
- The protection of the South-Eastern part of the border of the Reserve has been improved through an increased patrol effort and the number of violations of the territory protection regime has decreased significantly.

On 5 March 2020, the State Party provided the Integrated Management Plan for the property for the 2017-2031 period, as well as additional information stating that the mining exploration and exploitation license held by ZAO 'Gold Minerals' for the Chudnoe area within the property has been suspended as of 16 September 2019 and no equipment remained in the area.

On 14 March 2020, the World Heritage Centre received information from a third party, including a copy of a letter by the Ministry of Natural Resources dated 26 February 2020 responding to the same third party, regarding their request to clarify the status of the mining license for the Chudnoe gold deposit. In this letter, the State Party states that the mining licence for the Chudnoe deposit was suspended and not revoked, pending a possible modification of the boundaries of the YVNP. On 24 April 2020, the World Heritage Centre requested the State Party to provide, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, comments regarding this envisaged modification of the borders of the Yugyd Va National Park. The State Party replied in a letter dated 14 April 2021, informing that options have been considered to withdraw areas explored for industrial activities in the past from the territory of the YVNP for economic development of the region and to include additional forest areas of proportional size but that to date no decisions have been taken to modify the boundaries of the YVNP.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The information provided by the State Party that no exploration or extraction of minerals has been carried out within the property, that the mining license held by ZAO 'Gold Minerals' company within the Chudnoe area of the property has been suspended, and that the company has removed mine-drilling equipment from the area of the Chudnoe gold deposit is noted.

However, the continuation or duration of the suspension of the mining license remains unclear. The copy of the above-mentioned letter by the Ministry of Natural Resources addressed to the third party, states that the mining license has been suspended "*before changing the boundaries of the YVNP*" (sic). In this respect, it is of concern that the State Party report mentions the need "to approve the new boundaries of the protected area and its regulation" and that the additional information provided by the State Party on 14 April 2021 confirms ongoing discussion on consideration to modify the boundaries of YVNP for purposes of industrial development.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee again urge the State Party to urgently ensure the unequivocal revocation of the license for the Chudnoe gold deposit. It is also noted that, whilst the State Party report submitted on 29 November 2019 states that large sized equipment and infrastructure remains in the property, representatives of ZAO 'Gold Minerals' stated, in information provided on 5 March 2020, that there is no remaining equipment in the area. Therefore, it is also recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to clarify the presence of, and ensure the complete removal of any remaining large mining equipment or infrastructure, and to continue to ensure the recovery of areas previously occupied by mining equipment and infrastructure, and/or damaged by the mining-related activities undertaken in 2011 and 2012.

It is welcome that the State Party has provided information on the PINR following requests from the Committee to provide updates on this component of the property. It is noted that the State Party has undertaken measures to address the Committee's request regarding tourism management across all components of the property, and the confirmation that increased patrolling has resulted in a decrease in violations is welcome. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts in ensuring that tourism is effectively managed across all components of the property and to reiterate its request that the State Party develop a sustainable tourism management strategy for the entire property.

The previous submission of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property is noted. While it is considered that the plan could provide a framework for coordinating management activities across the protected areas comprising the property (fire management, patrolling, environmental education, tourism management), it is unclear what capacities exist for its implementation, particularly for any activities focused on the property's OUV, beyond the necessary day-to-day management. No information has been provided by the State Party on whether the budgetary deficit for the implementation of the IMP has

been addressed, as previously requested by the Committee. However, it is noted that increases in park staff and funding in YVNP are mentioned by the State Party as measures required for the preservation of the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that the State Party address the previously reported budget deficit for the implementation of the Plan.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.108**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.78**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to enforce visitor management in the Pechoro-Ilychskiy Nature Reserve component of the property and requests the State Party to develop a sustainable tourism management strategy for the entire property to ensure that tourism is effectively managed across all components;
4. While noting the suspension of the mining license granted to the ZAO 'Gold Minerals' company for exploration and extraction at the Chudnoe gold deposit and the partial removal of mining equipment from the area, expresses its utmost concern that the State Party confirms that it has been considering to modify the boundaries of the Yugyd Va National Park (YVNP) to allow for mining in the area and reiterates its established position that mining exploration and exploitation are incompatible with World Heritage status and urges the State Party to:
  - a) unequivocally revoke the mining exploration and exploitation licenses granted for the Chudnoe gold deposit, as requested in previous Committee decisions and refrain from changing the boundary of YVNP to allow for mining,
  - b) clarify the presence, and ensure the complete removal, of the ZAO 'Gold Minerals' company's equipment from the property, including any remaining large sized equipment,
  - c) continue to restore the areas damaged by mining activities undertaken in 2011 and 2012;
5. Also recalling previous concerns regarding budgetary constraints for the implementation of the property's Integrated Management Plan for the 2017-2031 period, and also requests the State Party to ensure that sufficient financial and human resources are available for the implementation of the Plan and to report on this in its next report;
6. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023.

**109. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation (N 765bis))**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**110. Western Caucasus (Russian Federation) (N 900)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 111. Iguazu National Park (Argentina) (N 303)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (vii)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2001-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 20,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

September 2006: UNESCO mission; April 2008: World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (proposed hydropower dams)
- Governance (lack of transboundary cooperation, uncoordinated development)
- Illegal activities (logging and hunting) (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan (problems associated with public use and lack of a public use plan)
- Invasive / alien species (issue resolved)
- Lack of sustainable financing (issue resolved)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 19 February 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/303/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The Iguazú National Park Management Plan was formally approved and adopted on 14 February 2018. An overview is provided of various operational projects foreseen to implement the Plan, including equipment and infrastructure maintenance, staff training, regularization of private land, and joint activities with public and private organizations. The Public Use and Environmental Education plans are still being finalized, however, some projects to strengthen tourism sustainability are already being implemented to cope with increased visitation, foreseen at 400,000 visitors in 2000 and reported at around 1.5 million in 2020. To strengthen conservation and sustainable use, the Management Plan includes research and species monitoring programmes (felines, other key vertebrates and invasive alien species (IAS)), traffic control projects, sustainable practices and buffer zone demarcation;
- The National Route 101 (RN 101) remains unpaved for about 30km within the property, and there are no current plans to pave this section. Various control measures such as wildlife crossings, surveillance radars, gates, signs and awareness campaigns are being implemented;

- In order to establish buffer zones, initial mapping and land use description have been undertaken for the area along the eastern borders of Iguazú National Park. However, further work will be required to officially establish a buffer zone for the property;
- The State Party has continued to undertake joint activities and share information with the neighbouring Iguazú National Park in Brazil, particularly jaguar monitoring and conservation, patrolling and surveillance to combat illegal activities, such as poaching, illegal fishing and palm heart harvesting. No joint activities between the two States Parties were undertaken specifically to monitor potential impacts of the new Baixo Iguazú dam, which is now in full operation. However, the State Party of Argentina has initiated a 12-year monitoring and research project on the river ecosystem, fish communities and water quality of the Iguazú River.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The formal approval and adoption of the new Management Plan for the property, and initiation of the implementation of related management activities, are welcomed.

The increase in visitor numbers over the last 20 years, and the implementation of projects to upgrade facilities and strengthen sustainable tourism, are noted. Growing visitor numbers may put increased pressure on the property, especially at peak times, and potentially negatively impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue its efforts to monitor visitor flows and carrying capacity, as foreseen in the Management Plan, and further strengthen measures required to regulate the number of visitors.

The confirmation that there are no further plans to pave or modify the RN 101 within the property is welcomed, as are the initiatives taken to decrease negative road-related impacts such as wildlife road kills. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to develop a long term management plan for the RN 101 in collaboration with the National Routes Authority and other national authorities to ensure that the road remains unpaved, to minimize the disturbance and negative effects on the property's OUV, as well as to confirm that there are no existing plans for extension or further paving of the road outside the property.

The continued efforts to define the buffer zone for the Iguazú National Park are noted. It is recommended that the World Heritage Committee reiterates its request to the State Party to complete the identification and demarcation of the buffer zone and to develop and submit a Minor Boundary Modification proposal, as per Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*, in order to officially establish a buffer zone for the World Heritage property.

The continued cooperation with the State Party of Brazil on information sharing, joint monitoring and surveillance activities are noted. However, it is regrettable that no specific cooperation was established to develop and implement a comprehensive monitoring, assessment and action plan to identify and address potential negative impacts from the Baixo Iguazú hydropower plant on the OUV of the two neighbouring properties. Noting that the State Party of Argentina has initiated a long-term monitoring and research project on the Iguazú River ecosystem and water quality, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the States Parties to collaborate on the development of a comprehensive overall monitoring system both for aquatic fauna and water flow. This monitoring would provide oversight and ensure compliance with the requirements and action plans prescribed for the hydropower project, thus assessing their effectiveness in mitigating adverse impacts on the OUV of the two properties.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.111**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 42 COM 7B.83, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Welcomes the approval and formal adoption of the new Management Plan for the property;*

4. *Notes the reported significant increase in visitor numbers since 2000 and requests the State Party to continue its efforts to monitor the visitation and carrying capacity, as foreseen in the Management Plan, and, to further strengthen measures to regulate visitor numbers;*
5. *Also welcomes the confirmation that there are no further plans to pave or modify the National Route 101 inside the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a long term management plan for the RN 101 with the National Routes Authority and other relevant national authorities to implement control and conservation initiatives, and to confirm that there are no plans for extension or further paving of the road outside the property, which might potentially affect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
6. *Also requests the State Party to complete the identification and demarcation of the buffer zone for the Iguazú National Park, and to develop and submit a Minor Boundary Modification, as per Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, in order to formally establish a buffer zone for the property;*
7. *While welcoming the continued collaboration with the State Party of Brazil, regrets that no specific cooperation occurred to jointly assess the potential impacts of the new Baixo Iguazu hydropower plant, and also reiterates its request to the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil to cooperate on the development of a comprehensive overall monitoring system both for aquatic fauna and water flow, which would provide oversight and ensure compliance with the requirements and action plans prescribed for the hydropower project, thus assessing their effectiveness in mitigating adverse impacts on the OUV of the two properties;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

## **112. Iguazu National Park (Brazil) (N 355)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1986

Criteria (vii)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1999-2001

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted to the property: USD 50,000 under the Brazilian World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for fire fighting planning

### Previous monitoring missions

March 1999: IUCN mission; April 2005: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of tourism / visitors / recreation
- Water infrastructure (construction of a hydropower dam)
- Ground transport infrastructure (draft law and pressure to re-open an illegal road)
- Illegal logging and hunting (issue resolved)
- Governance (lack of transboundary cooperation, uncoordinated development)
- Lack of sustainable financing (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan (issues associated with public use and lack of a public use plan)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/>

### Current conservation issues

On 29 November 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/355/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The Baixo Iguaçu hydropower plant (HPP) is now in operation. According to the monitoring reports, the dam operation is being conducted in accordance with conditions imposed by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio) and the Environmental Institute of Paraná (IAP), including to ensure a minimum flow of 350 m<sup>3</sup>/s at any time. Four monitoring programmes instituted by the HPP operator, on Biodiversity Corridor Consolidation, Hydrosedimentological Monitoring, Natural Resource Inspection and Aquatic environment monitoring (including water quality and ichthyofauna sub-programmes) are outlined;
- The Colono Road remains closed, however two Bills proposing the reopening of the road are under consideration by the National Congress. In the House of Representatives, a new Bill (PL 984/2019) to institute the Colono Road as a Park-Highway has been approved by the Highway and Transportation Committee and will undergo further analysis by four other Committees. The previously proposed Bill PLC 61/2013, sent to the Federal Senate after approval by the House of Representatives in 2013, has now been unarchived. This Bill has been approved by the Infrastructure Service Committee and is now being evaluated by the Environment and the Regional Development and Tourism Committees;
- After a two-year review process, an updated Management Plan was approved in December 2018, addressing the conservation of waterways, forest and key species, as well as citizen participation. A complementary Public Use Plan (PUP) including local engagement and environmental education is also being drafted. The National Programme for Monitoring Biodiversity ('Monitora') established in 2017 is collecting data on birds, mammals and butterflies. Vehicles and accidents with fauna are monitored along the BR-469 Highway inside the property. Three further projects to monitor surrounding areas, water quality and microplastics, and non-native and invasive flora, are being planned for 2020;
- Collaboration with the neighbouring Iguazú National Park World Heritage property in Argentina continues, particularly relating to jaguar conservation and joint actions to combat illegal activities such as hunting, wildlife smuggling and palm heart harvesting.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The information regarding the Baixo Iguaçu (HPP), including that dam operations are being conducted in accordance with the conditions set out by ICMBio and IAP to maintain a minimum flow level of 350m<sup>3</sup>/s, is noted. Recalling that the new dam was expected to decrease the effects of fluctuating water levels (i.e. hydropeaking) from existing dams further upstream on the Iguaçu River, it is not clear from the provided data whether this has been achieved. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide updated information on compliance with the operational requirements, to closely monitor and manage water flow, including hydropeaking, and its effects and to report on these results.

It is of utmost concern that no specific assessment of the impacts of the HPP on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, was submitted prior to the dam's construction and operation, as requested by the Committee. It is also of concern that not all recommendations of the 2015 IUCN Reactive Monitoring have been implemented.

While noting the on-going monitoring programmes by the HPP operator in cooperation with ICMBio, as required through the licencing process, no information was provided to clarify if these were developed

in cooperation with the State Party of Argentina, as requested by the Committee. It is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that these monitoring programmes effectively assess all possible negative impacts on the OUV of the property and that their results are used to inform action plans for mitigation, adaptive management and the operation of the Baixo Iguazu HPP.

The initiation of other programmes is welcomed, such as the Biodiversity Corridor Consolidation programme to reconnect the property with isolated fragments of the surrounding forest and the Natural Resource Inspection Programme to combat illegal activities in the property and around the dam. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue these and report on their outcomes.

While it is noted that the Colono Road is still closed, it is of grave concern that two legislative Bills are being considered which could allow the re-opening of the road as a Park-Highway. It should be recalled that the World Heritage Committee in several Decisions concluded that a situation which could allow the re-opening of the road continues to represent a potential threat to the property's OUV. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge again the State Party to ensure the continued closure of Colono Road including through appropriate legislative mechanisms.

The approval of the updated Management Plan, as well as the establishment of the 'Monitors' programme, is welcomed. The complementary PUP is expected to promote increased engagement with local communities including plans to disperse tourism from a single location at Foz do Iguazu to neighbouring municipalities. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit results from the biodiversity monitoring programme and provide information on the progress of improving tourist access opportunities from local municipalities other than Foz do Iguazu.

The continued cooperation with the State Party of Argentina on information sharing, joint monitoring and surveillance activities are noted. However, it is regrettable that no specific cooperation was established to develop and implement a comprehensive monitoring, assessment and action plan to identify and address potential negative impacts from the Baixo Iguazu (HPP) on the OUV of the two neighbouring properties. Noting that the State Party of Argentina has initiated a long-term monitoring and research project on the Iguazú River ecosystem and water quality, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the States Parties to collaborate on the development of a comprehensive overall monitoring system both for aquatic fauna and water flow. This monitoring would provide oversight and ensure compliance with the requirements and action plans prescribed for the hydropower project, thus assessing their effectiveness in mitigating adverse impacts on the OUV of the two properties.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.112**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.84**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Expresses its utmost concern that the Baixo Iguazu hydropower plant (HPP) is now in full operation without the submission of a specific assessment of the project's impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property to the World Heritage Centre, and requests the State Party to provide updated information on compliance with the specific operational requirements established for the operation of the HPP, particularly ensuring agreed minimum water flows and reduced fluctuations, and to report on these results;*
4. *Takes note of the on-going monitoring programmes by the HPP operator and the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), and also requests the State Party to:*
  - a) *Review the monitoring programmes to ensure that all potential impacts of the HPP on the property's OUV and integrity are being monitored and expand the ichthyofauna monitoring sub-programme to include all relevant species,*



- b) *Ensure that all negative impacts observed through monitoring are adequately addressed, including impacts from water pollution,*
  - c) *Ensure that the monitoring results are used to regulate action plans for mitigation, adaptive management and the operation of the HPP;*
5. *Regrets that no specific cooperation occurred with the State Party of Argentina to jointly assess the potential impacts of the new HPP, and reiterates its request to the States Parties of Argentina and Brazil to cooperate on the development of a comprehensive overall monitoring system both for aquatic fauna and water flow, which would provide oversight and ensure compliance with the requirements and action plans prescribed for the hydropower project, thus assessing their effectiveness in mitigating adverse impacts on the OUV of both properties;*
  6. *Welcomes programmes such as the Biodiversity Corridor Consolidation to reconnect the property with isolated fragments of the surrounding forest and the Natural Resource Inspection Programme to strengthen the fight against illegal activities, and also requests the State Party to continue these programmes and report on their outcomes;*
  7. *Expresses grave concern on the potential legislative implication of the two Bills (new PL 984/2019 and unarchived PLC 61/2013) under consideration, which propose the reopening of the Colono Road, and which could, if approved, create the conditions to re-inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in line with Paragraph 180 of the Operational Guidelines and urges the State Party to ensure the continued closure of Colono Road;*
  8. *Also welcomes the elaboration of the updated Management Plan for the Iguazu National Park, as well as the establishment of the National Programme for Monitoring Biodiversity ('Monitora'), and further requests the State Party to submit the Monitora programme results and provide information on the progress of improving tourist access opportunities from local municipalities other than Foz do Iguazu;*
  9. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

### **113. 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 2007-2010

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 26 (from 1979-2019)

Total amount approved: USD 627,825

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 3.5 million for the capitalization of an introduced species Trust Fund, management of introduced species, tourism management studies and other technical support

### Previous monitoring missions

June 1996: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); February 2003: UNESCO mission; June 2003: UNESCO mission; April 2005: UNESCO informal visit; February-March 2006: Joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2007: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (including World Heritage Committee Chairperson); April 2009: UNESCO informal visit; April-May 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; August 2017: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing / collection of aquatic resources)
- Legal framework (inadequate implementation of the Special Law on Galápagos)
- Governance
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (high immigration rate)
- Illegal activities
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Invasive Alien Species / biosecurity (inadequate and ineffective quarantine measures)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/>

### Current conservation issues

On 27 December 2019, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The 10-year Galápagos Invasive Species Management Plan was released in February 2019;
- The Galápagos Biosecurity Laboratory was opened, which will strengthen the identification and eradication of pests and diseases, as well as related research and education. The USD 20 million Invasive Species Fund was reactivated, funding seven projects in 2019. A manual was produced to control pests in urban zones of the islands;
- Prevention and quarantine control actions have improved in recent years and the Directorate of the Galápagos Biosecurity and Quarantine Regulation and Control Agency (GBA) has increased air and maritime transportation vessel inspections. Other actions include port design improvements, securing funding for cargo operation systems and the review of quarantine and fumigation processes;
- Tourist visitation has increased although the rate of acceleration has slowed. Whilst cruise ship tourism has remained fairly constant over the past decade, land-based tourism and flights to Baltra and San Cristóbal have increased substantially. Accommodation numbers are now fixed to 317 and the construction of new tourist accommodation infrastructure is prohibited;
- In 2018, the crews of two fishing vessels were sentenced for possessing and transporting protected species;
- Conservation initiatives of the Galápagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) include, amongst others, training of scuba diving guides, initiation of a giant tortoise captive breeding programme, and discovery of hammerhead shark nursery sites;
- A new five-year plan of action has been approved to optimise management effectiveness in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor (CMAR). In 2018, an Agreement was signed with the Republic of Costa Rica to share tools for conservation and management of the Galápagos Islands and Cocos Island National Park properties;
- The GNPD has been renewing artisanal fishing licenses and surveying catch. A ban on sea cucumber fishing and restrictions on spiny lobster fishing until stocks have recovered have been introduced. An investment plan is being developed for tuna fishing in the Galápagos Marine

Reserve (GMR) with the hope this will aid financing to improve the management and commercialisation system of tuna fishing in the Galápagos;

- The new Zoning Plan for the Special Status Region of Galápagos was approved in June 2018. This aims to consolidate settlements within the intensive urban limits and develop buffer zones between the populated areas and protected areas.

On 30 July 2020, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party regarding reported fishing activities by a large number of foreign vessels from diverse nationalities in close proximity of the property.

On 16 September 2020, the State Party submitted additional information about the possible impact on the biodiversity of the Galápagos Islands due to the presence of a [fleet of foreign-flagged fishing vessels](#) in the area near the State Party's Exclusive Economic Zone from July to the end of August 2020, confirming that excessive fishing, even at a considerable distance from the Galápagos Islands, could have an impact on the property's ecosystems. The State Party also considers that there is an urgent need to increase scientific research on biodiversity in general and the impacts of fishing near the property in particular.

On 5 November 2020, the State Party submitted additional information, providing a copy of the "Joint Declaration by the Foreign Affairs Ministries of the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Ecuador and the Republic of Peru" regarding fishing by foreign vessels in the areas adjacent to the waters under the jurisdiction of each country. The Declaration expresses the intent of these States Parties to take actions to jointly address the issue of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, which threatens conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in the areas beyond their national jurisdiction.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The continued efforts by the State Party to address the Committee's requests and the recommendations of the 2017 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission are welcomed.

Regarding biosecurity, it is welcomed that the State Party has initiated a new 10-year Invasive Species Management Plan, improving coordination and efficiency of biosecurity, food sovereignty and introduced species management, as well as opening the Galápagos Biosecurity Laboratory to strengthen capacities for pest control. Furthermore, the State Party has increased vessel inspections and improved cargo logistics systems, and the reported decrease in alien species and pest-infested product confiscations is noted. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to address all remaining recommendations on biosecurity of the 2017 mission, to rigorously ensure that biosecurity measures are followed and fully funded, and that vessels, equipment and facilities continue to be improved to control and limit invasions of alien species and pests.

The continued growth of tourism to the property is a significant concern, with an approximate 25% increase reported in tourism between 2016 and 2018 and a substantial increase in commercial flights in 2017-2018. The State Party, in its previous report, committed to adopt measures that promote a zero-growth model for tourism, as recommended by the 2017 mission. In view of this, it is also recommended that the Committee request the State Party to develop and implement a clear action plan with urgent measures to limit the number of tourists and flights to the property to achieve the zero growth model in line with its commitment.

The reinforcement of GNPD and its overall significant progress to control, protect, conserve and enhance the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) are welcomed. The approval of the Galápagos Zoning Plan in June 2018 is noted, as well as the intention to develop buffer zones between populated and protected areas. The State Party should be commended for its increased marine control and surveillance operations, as well as the prosecution of vessels possessing and transporting protected species. The agreements signed between GNPD and the Ecuadorian Navy, as well as with the National System of Protected Conservation Areas of the Republic of Costa Rica to protect the Galápagos Islands and Cocos Island National Park properties are noted with appreciation. Furthermore, the Joint Declaration by the States Parties of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru expressing the intent to jointly address the issue of IUU fishing in areas adjacent to their territorial waters is welcomed. However, IUU fishing in and around the property continues to represent a significant threat to its OUV, as was evidenced by the presence of a large fishing fleet from other States Parties in close proximity to the property in mid-2020. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue to further strengthen its collaboration and actions within the CMAR network as well as with other States Parties whose fishing vessels are illegally targeting migratory species that are part of the property's

OUV. It is further recommended that the Committee calls upon all States Parties to take all possible steps to ensure that fishing fleets operating under their flags do not impact the OUV of the property.

The prohibition of disposable plastic products and policies toward a plastic-free Galápagos are welcomed and it is recommended that the State Party be encouraged to pursue those efforts and share its results widely with other properties.

The reported intention to develop an investment plan related to tuna fishing is noted, however, it is recommended that the State Party be requested to provide clarification on its intentions regarding the commercialisation system of tuna fishing within the Galápagos, particularly concerning fishing regulations in the GMR, noting that commercial fishing is prohibited in the GMR.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.113**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.85** adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the continued efforts by the State Party to address the Committee's previous requests and the recommendations of the 2017 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to address all pending mission recommendations, in particular the recommendations related to biosecurity and to rigorously ensure that biosecurity measures are enforced and fully funded;
4. Also welcomes the efforts to make Galápagos plastic free, and encourages the State Party to pursue those efforts and to share its results widely with other properties;
5. Noting with serious concern the continued growth of tourism and commercial flights to the property, despite the commitment made by the State Party to promote a zero growth model for tourism, reiterates its requests to the State Party to develop and implement a clear tourism strategy that ensures that suitable measures are sustained in the long term as permanent regulations, with a clear action plan with urgent measures to achieve the zero growth model, including maintaining the moratorium on construction of new tourism projects and the limits on the number of flights, and to submit this strategy and action plan to the World Heritage Centre for review;
6. While noting the increased marine surveillance operations, reiterates its concern that ongoing illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing in and around the property continues to represent a threat to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), further welcomes the 2020 "Joint Declaration by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Ecuador and the Republic of Peru" expressing the intent of these States Parties to take actions to jointly address this issue and requests the State Party to continue to strengthen its collaboration and actions within the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor network as well as with other States Parties whose fishing vessels are illegally targeting migratory species that are part of the property's OUV;
7. Calls upon all States Parties to take all possible steps to ensure that fishing fleets operating under their flags do not impact the OUV of the property;
8. Also noting that an investment plan is being developed for yellow-fin tuna fishing within the Galápagos Marine Reserve (GMR) to attract funding to improve management and the commercialization system for tuna fishing in the Galápagos, also recalling that commercial fishing is prohibited in the GMR, requests furthermore the State Party to

*clarify its intentions regarding commercialisation, particularly concerning fishing regulations within the GMR;*

9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

#### **114. El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) (N 1410)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

#### **115. Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Panama) (N 1138rev)**

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List* 2005

*Criteria* (ix)(x)

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger* N/A

*Previous Committee Decisions* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 350,000 (for management planning, installation of mooring buoys for diving boats, working with local communities, capacity building, public use planning and improved stakeholder understanding of legal protection measures)

##### Previous monitoring missions

January 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Management systems/ management plan (delayed implementation of the Management Plan)
- Marine transport infrastructure (planned construction of a naval base)
- Legal framework (absence of clear regulations)
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Human resources (insufficient management capacity)
- Impacts of tourism / visitors / recreation

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/>

##### Current conservation issues

On 29 January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1138/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Monitoring activities following the feral livestock removal programme were undertaken in 2019 and the presence of only one buffalo was detected. Further monitoring activities were planned for 2020;
- As part of the update of the Management Plan for Coiba National Park, a bidding process for the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the entire property and its wider area of socioeconomic influence has also been initiated. Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the SEA and the update of the Management Plan were annexed;
- Plans for the rehabilitation of the airport runway within the property have been suspended and therefore will not be considered by the SEA;
- Some provisions of the fishing regulations for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP), adopted in 2018, are further clarified, for example, while longline fishing is allowed, it is restricted to 500 hooks per horizontal line compared to 1.000 hooks allowed in other national waters. It is also noted that a decree adopted in 2017 regulates the process for registration, licensing and surveillance of fishing boats using longlines. This process started for the SZMP in 2019 and a total of 178 applications have been received, out of which 68 permits were granted and others are being evaluated. The application for new permits has been closed as of June 2019. All vessels with permits will need to have a vessel monitoring system tracking device installed by March 2020, which would allow the monitoring of fishing activities in the SZMP;
- Surveillance activities are being carried out by rangers of Coiba National Park and it is also planned to acquire drones for these purposes;
- A Biosafety Plan has been prepared for Coiba National Park in coordination with institutions, municipalities, private companies, community-based organizations, researchers and local community;
- Other projects continued being implemented, including monitoring of coral reef communities, hawksbill turtles and a baseline assessment of occurrence and distribution of cetaceans.

In 2019, IUCN also held consultations with the State Party and received a letter inviting an Advisory mission to provide advice on the fishing regulations for the SZMP. It has not been possible to organize the mission to date due to the current global pandemic situation.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

Progress has been achieved by the State Party on a number of issues that should be welcomed. This includes the finalization of the ToRs, and initiation of a bidding process, for the preparation of the SEA for the property and update of the Management Plan, ongoing control and monitoring activities following the feral livestock removal and preparation of a biosafety plan for Coiba National Park. With regards to the SEA, it should, however, be recalled that the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **43 COM 7B.28** requested the State Party to “suspend the implementation of any new tourism infrastructure or other development projects within the property, including those envisaged in the Public Use Plan, until the SEA has been completed”. It is noted that, although the ToRs for the preparation the SEA state that the Public Use Plan (PUP) may need to be modified based on the SEA process, the State Party however provides no information on the current status of the PUP or of any infrastructure projects, except the suspension of the airport landing strip upgrade. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide further clarifications in this regard and to ensure that the results of the SEA, once available, are fully taken into account in the implementation of the PUP or in its revision, if deemed necessary.

With regards to fishing regulations in the SZMP, the additional information provided by the State Party is noted. While the adopted regulations indeed represent an important step after a long absence of any regulations in the SZMP, the concern remains that they are significantly weaker than those in place within Coiba National Park. These weaker regulations not only fail to guarantee the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the entire property, but they also create two very different protection and management regimes when a harmonized approach is clearly needed. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to address the specific requests made by the Committee in its Decision **43 COM 7B.28** regarding fishing regulations, in particular the seasonal closures of critical replenishing zones across the property. On the one hand, the expansion of the vessel monitoring system to SZMP is a positive step to ensure surveillance of fishing activities. However, it remains of concern that available human resources are insufficient to be able to control illegal activities across the entire property and the State Party should therefore be encouraged to continue strengthening

capacity and resources. The invitation from the State Party for an IUCN Advisory mission to the property to help further refine the fishing regulations and a strategy for their implementation is welcomed. While it is regrettable that the mission could not yet be organized, it is recommended that the State Party continue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on this matter, and the mission be undertaken once conditions allow.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.115**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.28**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the finalization of Terms of Reference and initiation of a bidding process for the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the property and its zone of socio-economic influence;*
4. *Also welcomes the suspension of the plans to rehabilitate the airport landing strip within the property and the confirmation that this project will therefore not be considered by the SEA, however, requests the State Party to clarify whether this project has been completely abandoned or only suspended;*
5. *Also recalling its request to the State Party to suspend the implementation of any new tourism infrastructure or other development projects within the property, including those envisaged in the Public Use Plan (PUP), until the SEA has been completed and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, also requests the State Party to clarify the status of other projects foreseen in the PUP and to ensure that the results of the SEA, once available, are fully taken into account in the future management of the property;*
6. *Takes note of the ongoing monitoring and control activities following the removal of feral livestock from the property and encourages the State Party to continue these until the complete absence of feral livestock can be confirmed;*
7. *Notes the additional information provided by the State Party regarding the fishing regulations adopted in 2018 for the Special Zone of Marine Protection (SZMP) of the property, however, reiterates its requests to the State Party to further improve the fishing regulations for the SZMP, in line with the recommendations of the 2014 and 2016 missions, by:*
  - a) *Establishing additional no-take zones, including the Hannibal Bank Habitat Protection Zone, considering their critical importance as replenishing areas,*
  - b) *Reconsidering the current approach to commercial fishing within the SZMP in line with regulations in place for Coiba National Park, in order to further reduce pressures from fishing on the property;*
8. *Notes with satisfaction the expansion of the vessel monitoring system to the SZMP, but also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure the provision of adequate resources for the efficient enforcement of fishing regulations throughout the property, and the full functioning of the monitoring system envisaged for the SZMP, and to align this system with the existing monitoring activities within Coiba National Park;*

9. *Further welcomes the initiative by the State Party to invite an IUCN Advisory mission to the property to help further refine the fishing regulations and provide advice on their implementation and also encourages the State Party to continue consultations with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN on this matter and facilitate the mission to be undertaken once conditions allow;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **116. Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia) (N 1161)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2002-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 19,950

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

March 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Renewable energy facilities (geothermal energy exploration)
- Absence of strict development control process (issue resolved)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161>

### Current conservation issues

On 21 January 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1161/documents/>, providing the following information:

- The integration of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) study regulation into the Planning and Regulatory Framework for Development Appraisal is being held up due to financing constraints;
- The Pitons Management Area (PMA) Office has undertaken a monitoring visit to the Freedom Bay Development Project site, which confirmed the presence of four building foundations associated with the five villas completed in 2016, and that no visible progress has taken place on the project since, with some vegetation recovery observed. The Department of Physical Planning further confirmed that no project activities had been undertaken since 2017;



- The Geothermal Resource Development Project (GRDP) ended in January 2019, which identified possible locations for exploratory drilling. Plans for a new project are being discussed, however, no activities are currently underway or foreseen in the near future. Any such activities will be subject to Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs);
- The State Party confirms that boundary demarcation, including the buffer zone, is a priority for the entire PMA;
- A management effectiveness assessment has been undertaken, supported by the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme funded by the European Commission, which confirmed the need to update the PMA Management Plan from 2003. This will be undertaken in 2020;
- Ongoing monitoring activities include analysis using the Viewpoint Monitoring Technique comparing fixed-point photographs, routine visits to pressure areas for visual inspections, a status update of development applications, as well as projects addressing coastal water quality, health of the marine ecosystem, climate change, resource usage and livelihoods. Based on these results, the State Party considers that changes to the PMA landscape have still not adversely impacted the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- Other activities reported on include projects to increase public awareness and community engagement, and the establishment of a PMA-UNESCO Club. The new Mexico – Saint Lucia Bilateral Cooperation Project will focus on heritage conservation, and exploring linkages between tourism and job creation.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

It is regrettable that due to financing constraints, the LAC study has not yet been integrated into legal and regulatory frameworks. However, the confirmation by the State Party that the need for strengthening regulatory provisions remains a priority, is welcomed. Alternative financing through the Attorney General's Chamber or from the World Heritage Fund were discussed at the Pitons Management Advisory Council in July 2019, but no progress on the matter is mentioned.

The results of a photo-based Viewpoint Monitoring exercise show some new developments, especially on private land within the PMA. While continued dialogue with stakeholders to ensure compliance with the LAC regulations is welcomed, it is considered that strengthening of the regulatory framework needs to be urgently addressed. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to ensure that funding for the integration of the LAC regulations into the legal framework is secured, including by considering existing international financing mechanisms, such as International Assistance.

The confirmation that Freedom Bay Development Project has not noticeably progressed since the last state of conservation report, is noted. However, as in the previous report, no information was provided on the Sugar Beach development, in spite of the clear request by the Committee. Noting the reported approval of many development applications within the property between 2004 and 2019 (Annex 3 of the 2020 State Party report), the overall status of development within the property as a whole remains unclear. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to ensure compliance of all approved projects with the LAC regulations and to request the State Party to ensure that LAC regulations are considered in the review and approval procedures for all projects.

It is welcomed that the revision of the 2003 Management Plan is planned for 2020 following a management effectiveness assessment, which confirmed the need for such revision. In this regard, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to fully reflect the conclusions of the LAC study in the planned revision of the Management Plan and to submit the draft revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, once available.

The information that no further geothermal development activities are currently on-going as a result of the end of the GRDP project is noted. The confirmation that any new geothermal development plans including exploratory drilling will be accompanied by an ESIA, is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to ensure that the property remains off-limits for any future geothermal development activities and to ensure that any potential impacts from activities outside the property are assessed through a comprehensive ESIA, in line with the State Party's commitment, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The State Party's continued commitment to demarcate the boundaries of the property is welcomed, and it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its requests to the State Party in this regard, including to formalize the status of the buffer zone of the property, given also potential future exploratory drilling overlapping this area.

The State Party's collaboration projects, efforts to increase community engagement and capacity building for monitoring are also welcomed and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue this work and report on its results, including any updates on actions to decrease land degradation and eradicate invasive alien species.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.116**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.84**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's continued dialogue with stakeholders to ensure compliance with the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) regulations, but regrets that the regulations have not yet been integrated into the legal and regulatory framework of Saint Lucia due to funding constraints, and urges the State Party to ensure that funding for this integration is actively pursued and secured, including through considering existing international financing mechanisms;*
4. *Taking note of the confirmation that the Freedom Bay Development Project has not noticeably progressed since the last state of conservation report, also regrets that no information was provided on the Sugar Beach Development Project, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that these and any other projects being considered for implementation are fully compliant with the provisions of the LAC study;*
5. *Also welcomes that the revision of the 2003 Management Plan is planned for 2020 and reiterates its request to the State Party to fully reflect the conclusions of the LAC study in the planned revision of the Management Plan, and to submit the draft revised Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, once available;*
6. *Takes note of the confirmation that no geothermal development activities are currently taking place and that any future projects will include an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that the property remains off-limits for any future geothermal development activities and that any potential impacts from activities outside the property are assessed through a comprehensive ESIA, in line with the State Party's commitment, and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Noting the State Party's continued commitment to undertaking the demarcation of the boundaries of the property, encourages it to continue its efforts in this regard, and also urges it to:*
  - a) *Formalize the status of the buffer zone of the World Heritage property as a 'formal buffer zone' through a Minor Boundary Modification, in conformity with Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines,*
  - b) *Clearly define the types of activities permitted in this buffer zone, ensuring their compatibility with the conservation of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*

8. *Appreciates the State Party's collaboration projects, its efforts to increase community engagement and capacity building for monitoring, and also encourages the State Party to continue this work and report on its results, including any updates on actions to decrease land degradation and eradicate invasive alien species;*
9. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## II. REPORTS ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF PROPERTIES INSCRIBED ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST INITIALLY FORESEEN TO BE EXAMINED BY THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE IN 2021

### CULTURAL PROPERTIES

#### AFRICA

##### **117. Asmara: a Modernist City of Africa (Eritrea) (C 1550)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

##### **118. Rock-Hewn Churches, Lalibela (Ethiopia) (C 18)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

##### **119. Aapravasi Ghat (Mauritius) (C 1227)**

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List* 2006

*Criteria* (vi)

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger* N/A

*Previous Committee Decisions* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/documents/>

##### *International Assistance*

Requests approved: 1 (from 2014-2014)

Total amount approved: USD 29,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/assistance/>

##### *UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

N/A

##### *Previous monitoring missions*

March 2012: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; May 2018: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission

##### *Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports*

- Restoration works (issue resolved)
- Visitor pressure (issue resolved)
- Management systems/Management Plan (need for an updated Management Plan)
- Urban development (issue resolved)

- Commercial development
- Transport infrastructure

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 8 January 2021, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1227/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented, as follows:

- The Management Plan for the property has been updated and was included as an annex to the state of conservation report. It will be updated again in 2025. The Plan includes, amongst others:
  - A continued role for the Management Plan Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage,
  - Future continuation of research on the Parc à Boulets,
  - Provisions for a consultative community that will meet at least once a year as part of the management structure for the property;
- A precinct level “Area Action Plan for Urban Heritage Area: Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property” (AAP 01) has been developed and adopted to Master Plan the future development of the buffer zone of the property. Included among its provisions are that:
  - The Management Plan Committee monitors the implementation of the AAP 01,
  - A Heritage Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment (HIA/VIA) needs to be undertaken on any development planned for the buffer zone that might have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
  - The Parc à Boulets has been given the status of protected area in the AAP 01;
- A consultant has been appointed to undertake an overarching HIA/VIA for the large-scale developments in the buffer zone on precinct level. The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed its execution. The HIA/VIA will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review once completed;
- No construction of individual projects in the buffer zone have commenced yet. Individual HIA/VIAs will be undertaken for all the individual development projects in the buffer zone before they are implemented and will likewise be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review once completed.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has made much progress in addressing previous Committee requests and implementing the recommendations of the 2018 joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Advisory mission. The implementation of the updated Management Plan (2020–2025), and the development and adoption of the AAP 01 to steer development in the property’s buffer zone, are important tools to safeguard the OUV of the property and its setting. The AAP 01 augments the protection offered by the 2011 Planning Policy Guidance (PPG 6), the guidelines for the urban heritage area that covers the territory of the buffer zone. The AAP 01’s provisions for mandatory impact assessments are welcome.

The State Party’s commitment to undertaking the overarching HIA/VIA on the planned large developments in the buffer zone of the property, along with individual HIA/VIAs on the constituent projects, as well as submitting these assessments to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, indicate its commitment to the maintenance of the OUV of the property.

The PPG 6 states that community participation for impact assessments should be undertaken, where required, but does not mandate participation. Annexe 5 of the updated Management Plan includes public involvement/participation as components of an HIA/VIA but does not describe the form that such consultations should take. It is therefore advisable that the State Party be requested again to develop a framework for stakeholder participation in the property, including for HIA/VIAs.

The research undertaken on the Parc à Boulets, and the subsequent protection granted to the area through the AAP 01, safeguards the potentially valuable archaeological residue in this area associated with the former Immigration Depot. Further archival and archaeological research in this area should be

stimulated. It would be welcomed if the State Party could provide updates to the World Heritage Centre on such investigations in the future.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.119**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.108**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the submission and adoption of the updated Management Plan (2020-2025), and the adoption of the “Area Action Plan for Urban Heritage Area: Buffer Zone of the Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage Property (AAP 01)”, which includes provisions for impact assessments where development proposals may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Also welcomes the commitment of the State Party to undertake and submit for review an overarching Heritage Impact Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment (HIA/VIA) on the buffer zone developments, as well as constituent HIA/VIAs on the individual developments before projects are implemented;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party to develop a framework for stakeholder consultation in all matters that may affect the OUV of the property, including for impact assessment procedures;
6. Requests the State Party to provide information to the World Heritage Centre on future archival and archaeological research on the Parc à Boulets;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

**120. Island of Saint-Louis (Senegal) (C 956bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1997-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 11,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 192,697.13 from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement

### Previous monitoring missions

March-April 2004: Joint World Heritage Centre/France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement mission; April 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission; 2007: France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement mission; February 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission with participation of an expert from the France-UNESCO Cooperation Agreement; May 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission with the participation of an expert from the European Space Agency (ESA)

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a site manager (Issue resolved)
- Lack of monitoring and control mechanism
- Lack of a conservation and management plan (existence of a Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan serving as a Conservation and Management Plan)
- New constructions, architectural modifications and urban projects affecting authenticity and integrity
- Inappropriate housing restoration
- Environmental disorder due to the modification of the mouth of the Senegal River
- Extremely poor state of conservation of numerous derelict buildings endangering occupants

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/>

### Current conservation issues

On 19 December 2020, the State Party submitted a 2019 State of conservation report after having provided a progress report on 2 March 2020 – both reports are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/956/documents/> – providing the following information:

- The Tourism Development Programme (PDT) which is financed by the French Development Agency (AFD) and carries out most of the rehabilitation work on public and private heritage as well as public squares and wharves, has been extended until 2023;
- The rehabilitation of the Cathedral has been completed, and the keys were officially handed over to the Diocese of Saint-Louis by the Minister of Culture on 8 October 2020. A complete technical file of the work carried out was provided;
- The refurbishment works of the Place Faidherbe, renamed Place Baya-Ndar, and the Avenue Jean Mermoz are underway. They aim to create a pedestrian square with landscaping, walking and rest areas, and an extension to the Place Pointe à Pitre (see last PDT quarterly report attached hereto as Annex 2);
- The rehabilitation of the Rogniat Sud and its reallocation to Culture (regional cultural centre, public library, commercial art galleries, agora, etc.) have been included in the programme and entrusted to a consultancy firm;
- In view of rehabilitating the private built heritage, several studies and workshops on the architectural units (AU) in danger were carried out and meetings with owners were organized to complete the inventory of endangered public buildings previously drawn up and to confirm a list of priority housing units. A priority phase aimed at rehabilitating 16 AUs is underway and should be completed in September 2021;
- The state of dereliction of the wharves and embankments is worrying. A consultancy firm has already been contracted to carry out studies for seven months and complete the works that are scheduled to last 18 months;
- Regarding the rehabilitation work of the Heritage House, scheduled for completion in 2020, an updated technical study was deemed necessary to supplement the study carried out in 2015. A new tender process has been initiated and a company should be selected in June 2021 with the completion of the works scheduled for June 2022;
- As part of the integrated Senegalese coastal management programme, impact studies initiated in the framework of World Bank and AFD projects to combat coastal erosion and protect the Langue de Barbarie are still underway but access to these studies is difficult due to a lack of

coordination between ministerial departments. The World Bank project plans to rehouse 6,000 families affected by coastal erosion along the Langue de Barbarie;

- The regional commission has continued its site visits and has issued four summonses;
- The State of Senegal has asked the PDT to carry out rehabilitation studies of the Governor's Palace which is progressively deteriorating;
- As part of the PDT, eight dump trucks will be purchased to collect waste.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The report submitted by the State Party, along with the report submitted in February 2020, shows that that many projects are now at a more or less advanced stage of implementation which reflects the strong dynamics at work on the property. Several projects are to be welcomed, notably the rehabilitation of the Cathedral and the Heritage House, the inventory of the private built heritage, and the improvement of the governance of the property, in particular through the creation of a regional commission, which is now the only authority empowered to examine building and rehabilitation permits and modifications.

The February 2020 report had already indicated that efforts regarding good governance were continuing and mentioned regular meetings between the various stakeholders and a clear distribution of responsibilities between the different actors. However, lengthy administrative procedures, exacerbated by the lack of coordination between ministerial departments, remains an obstacle to obtaining information on the integrated project for the management of Senegal's coastline and consequently the coordination of actions. Similarly, the Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan of Saint-Louis (PSMV) is above all a planning document intended to ensure the safeguarding and enhancement of remarkable heritage sites, but it does not meet the requirements of a management plan. Today, it is strongly recommended that the State Party elaborate a real Management and Conservation Plan, which could include risk management and an updated action plan, and further formalize participatory coordination at the community level. The efforts of good governance have been noted and should be pursued, notably through the operationalization of the Heritage House, considered a pivotal point in the safeguarding and enhancement of the heritage and a guarantee of the sustainability of the management and conservation efforts undertaken by the State Party.

The efforts made to rehabilitate the private built heritage following its inventory, along with the monitoring of building and modification permits, the summonses and the financing mechanism, are significant and commendable. A socio-economic survey of the Island of Saint-Louis, carried out within the framework of the PDT, is also appreciated. It aims to provide a thorough analysis of the situation of the owners and a land ownership and succession survey in order to establish eligibility for subsidies under the Programmed Housing Improvement Operation (OPAH). However, the acceleration of rehabilitation, constructions and modifications projects require a regular update of the inventory and continuous illustrated documentation, for a better appreciation of the ongoing developments and transformations in progress. The efforts undertaken by the State Party to make the SINDAR database more operational are commendable and should be extended to allow the monitoring of works and to appreciate their impact on the property. Since exactions in construction and modification projects remain a concern, regular monitoring along with site visits should be reinforced, as well as wide communication to the island's inhabitants on heritage prerogatives, the regulations in place and support measures.

Similarly, although the development of the former Place Faidherbe and Avenue Jean Mermoz is intended to further enhance the property, the measures to close the Place Faidherbe to traffic are highly likely to divert and increase the density of traffic to other parts of the island, particularly on the wharves, which are not designed to support such pressure and whose structure could be weakened. Although well intentioned, this could greatly affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and it is regrettable that the State Party has not submitted the development projects with an analysis of their impact on the heritage for examination by the Advisory Bodies prior to their implementation, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and Decision 43 COM 7B.110. It is recommended that an impact study be carried out for the project implemented on the former Place Faidherbe. This study could focus in particular on the pedestrianization of the square and its effect on traffic throughout the island and in particular on the wharves. Mitigation measures may need to be proposed. Finally, the State Party should be reminded of the need to submit any major project to the World Heritage Centre for technical review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is noted that the State Party was able to provide information on the rehabilitation and extension project of the Grand Mosque, as previously requested by the Committee, which had expressed concern about



the construction of new imposing minarets and had recommended that the architectural part of the project be adjusted to comply with the regulations in force in the Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan of Saint-Louis (PSMV). However, this information is general and should be completed by plans and sections of the project and by an analysis of its impact on the authenticity of the property. It is noted that according to the State Party, only one minaret would be built instead of the four initially planned.

Finally, during a meeting with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN on 28 January 2021, the gas and oil company BP presented the Grand Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) gas project planned in Senegal and Mauritania, notably off the coast of Saint-Louis, and its possible impact on the property. The meeting addressed the actions planned for the implementation of the project as well as some related issues, such as maritime traffic, coastal erosion studies, the relation with the Senegalese Integrated Coastal Management Programme, and the impact on other World Heritage properties in the area. Considering the proximity of this project to the property, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies.

The analysis of the two reports makes it clear that the property is in an important and comprehensive transformation phase, which represents both a great opportunity for its conservation as well as potential risks to its OUV. Therefore, it is recommended that the State Party invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to review the state of conservation of the property, the implementation of the recommendations of the 2017 mission, and the impact of the various projects on the property.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.120**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.110**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the State Party, in particular for the ongoing rehabilitation of the Cathedral and the Heritage House, as well as for the effective governance of the property and the fund-raising efforts;*
4. *Appreciates the progress made to establish an inventory of the private heritage and its rehabilitation, and requests the State Party to regularly update the inventory with continuous illustrated documentation to ensure a better appreciation of the ongoing developments and transformations of the urban fabric;*
5. *Recommends that the State Party establish a Conservation and Management Plan which also includes risk management, an updated action plan integrating the various authorities in charge and in particular the future Heritage House, as well as participatory coordination at the community level;*
6. *Acknowledges the efforts made to improve and enhance the property through the development of the former Place Faidherbe, renamed by the Saint-Louis municipality Place Baya-Ndar, and the Avenue Jean Mermoz, expresses its concern about the potential impacts of a traffic closure on the former Place Faidherbe, diverting and increasing traffic density on other parts of the island, in particular on the wharves that may be weakened therefrom, and also recommends that the State Party carry out an impact study of the development project of the former Place Faidherbe, to consider whether mitigation measures may be necessary;*
7. *Regrets that the State Party did not submit the development projects and an analysis of their impact on the property before their implementation for examination by the Advisory*

Bodies, and reminds the State Party to submit to it all major projects for examination by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, to ensure that they do not have a negative and irreversible impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;

8. Further recommends that the State Party provide more detailed information concerning the rehabilitation and extension project of the Grand Mosque (plans, sections, analysis demonstrating that the project complies with the regulations in force set out in the Safeguarding and Enhancement Plan of Saint-Louis and analysis of the project's impact on the authenticity of the property);
9. Takes note of the Grand Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA) gas project by the oil and gas company BP in Senegal and Mauritania presented at a meeting with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN on 28 January 2021, and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre in particular the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for examination by the Advisory Bodies to assess the potential impact of the project on the property;
10. Taking into account the many major projects underway or under preparation at the property and the significant ongoing transformations, further requests that the State Party invite a World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the general state of conservation of the property and the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the 2017 mission;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 121. Fossil hominids sites of South Africa (South Africa) (C 915bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground water pollution
- Mining
- Surface water pollution

- Water (rain/water table)
- Climate change and severe weather events
- Acid mine drainage
- Integrated Management plan to be finalized
- Interpretative and visitation facilities in case of concern re. additional material requested

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/915/documents/>, which informs of the following progress:

- Continued monitoring of the Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai and Environs (FHSSSKE) component of the property is in place, following the Vulnerable Fossil Site Risk Prevention Strategy, submitted to the Committee in 2018. A process to develop similar risk prevention strategies for other components of the property has commenced;
- The Integrated Management Plan for the property will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review after ongoing consultations have been completed;
- No new mining licenses or other mineral extractive activities are presently planned;
- Water quality targets have been gazetted and are appended to the State Party report;
- The State Party has not made further progress on developing the requested Long-Term Solution (LTS) for the Western Basin Treatment Works, which has been provisionally deferred due to concerns over financial risks. The requested Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has not yet been commissioned. Meanwhile, the Short-Term Solution (STS) has been extended for three years from October 2020 and alternative technical and institution arrangements are being explored to further enhance it. A report on the efficacy of the STS will be completed by March 2021;
- Extensive ground and surface water quality monitoring results have been provided for the FHSSSKE component, noting that there are no fossil depots in direct contact with or in very close proximity to ground water or surface water. The southwestern portion has seen increases in sulphate and other mineral levels linked to mine water impacts and possibly due to sediment movement during heavy rainfall. Severe bacteriological contamination of the Bloubank Spruit (stream) continues, attributed to waste water treatment works. Inter-departmental discussions are ongoing to address the problem;
- The State Party is planning to redevelop extant structures at the Taung Skull Fossil site, including a Museum for Palaeontological and Archaeological finds. These proposals were approved after being assessed through a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) and based on an approved Heritage Management Plan (HMP);
- Works planned at the Makapan Valley component include: stabilization of cave walls; construction of an office block, staff accommodation, store room, environmental education centre and museum; entrance gate upgrade; and road construction and infrastructure upgrades.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The efforts made by the State Party towards the conservation of the property are to be commended and encouraged, in particular as regards the continued monitoring of the FHSSSKE component and the process initiated to develop similar risk prevention strategies for other components, the gazette of water quality targets and the extensive ground and surface water quality monitoring results provided for the FHSSSKE component.

Analysis presented in the State Party report indicates that the Acid Mine Discharge (AMD) 'slug', spilled into the groundwater system in 2014, is slowly passing through the aquifer system. The STS has seemingly been effective in avoiding any further discharge to date. While it is unfortunate that no progress has been made on developing the LTS as permanent solution to counter the threat of future AMD groundwater contamination, extension of the STS for the interim is deemed sufficient, but only if its capacity is augmented to accommodate high volumes during wet summer rainfall periods. Developing an appropriate LTS, and continuing monitoring and evaluation of both ground and surface water quality and levels, remains of paramount importance. Despite the previously-reported agreement between the

site management and the local authority to reduce the high level of bacteriological contamination in the surface and ground water, this remains a problem. The independent water quality monitoring report appended to the State Party's report indicates that in limited instances measurements from monitoring stations are not regularly updated.

Completion of the Integrated Management Plan and Risk Prevention Strategies for the Taung Skull Fossil site and Makapan Valley components of the property also remains vital. No timelines have been presented for the completion of these Risk Prevention Strategies. All Risk Prevention Strategies, like water level and quality monitoring protocols, need to be embedded in the Integrated Management Plan.

The Committee may wish to reiterate its previous requests on the above matters.

The planned visitors' facilities and infrastructure upgrades indicate the State Party's commitment to developing the educational potential of the property. These proposals have been approved by the State Party after being tested through HIA and VIA and based on an approved Heritage Management Plan (HMP). The State Party should submit the assessments and the HMP, for both the Taung Skull Fossil site and the Makapan Valley components, to the World Heritage Centre for review before implementing these projects.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.121**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.111, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the efforts made towards the conservation of the property, in particular as regards to the continued monitoring of the Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai and Environs (FHSSSKE) component and the process initiated to develop similar risk prevention strategies for other components, the gazette of water quality targets and the extensive ground and surface water quality monitoring results provided for the FHSSSKE component, and encourages the State Party to continue efforts in this direction;*
4. *Acknowledges the continued implementation and extension of the Short-Term Solution (STS) to prevent a future Acid Mine Discharge event as well as continued water quality monitoring and finalisation of water quality targets, but regrets the limited progress made in developing the required Long-Term Solution (LTS) for the Western Basin Treatment Works, and the requested Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);*
5. *Supports the extension of the STS, but requests the State Party to:*
  - a) *Augment the STS to allow for sufficient capacity to deal with high-rainfall events and submit details of these measures to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
  - b) *Submit the design specification and the EIA for the second phase of the Western Basin Treatment Works (LTS) for review by the Advisory Bodies within the three-year STS extension period and before implementation thereof;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to:*
  - a) *Finalize the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) under preparation in conformity with recommendations of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre,*
  - b) *Extend the Risk Prevention Strategy to the Taung Skull Fossil site and the Makapan Valley components of the property and incorporate these into the IMP,*

- c) *Submit the IMP and Risk Prevention Strategy to the World Heritage Centre for review as soon as possible,*
  - d) *Address the bacteriological pollution from the municipal wastewater effluent on the Fossil Hominid Sites of Sterkfontein, Swartkrans, Kromdraai and Environs component of the property;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit designs and all impact assessments as well as the Heritage Management Plan/s for the visitors' facilities and infrastructure upgrades at the Taung Skull Fossil site and the Makapan Valley components of the property to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before any further implementation of these projects;*
8. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **122. Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba (Togo) (C 1140)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1140/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2001-2015)

Total amount approved: USD 31,993

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1140/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 21,471.5 for an emergency mission (see below) following the collapse of several Sikien (Heritage Emergency Fund); USD 202,298 from the Government of Norway for the period 2020-2022

### Previous monitoring missions

October 2018: Emergency mission funded by the Heritage Emergency Fund

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Destruction of several Sikien during the 2018 rainy season
- Management Plan/Management system (lack of human, material and financial resources, as well as insufficient legal and legislative frameworks; Management and Conservation Plan to be finalized and adopted)
- Emergence of new forms of modern construction and uncontrolled urbanization
- Deforestation

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1140/>

### Current conservation issues

On 2 February 2021, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1140/documents> and informing that:

- The major threats to the site are natural disasters and the visual impact of modern constructions;

- The project “Improving the state of conservation of Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba” funded by Norway has inventoried and geolocated around 1,700 Sikien. The current data processing will make it possible to map the Sikien and determine their state of conservation;
- Intensive reforestation is planned by local authorities and the management team to combat deforestation;
- The intangible heritage is preserved, ensuring the integrity of the site, thanks to the safeguard and enhancement of customs and practices, and promotion and valorization activities;
- Community solidarity made it possible to restore several Sikien damaged in 2018. Also, a cross-border project financed by the World Monument Fund provided for the restoration of around thirty Sikien and the establishment of local monitoring committees in 2021;
- The decree of 17 May 2018 led to the creation of the Koutammakou Conservation and Promotion Service (SCPK), requiring the strengthening of human resources. The local management committee participates in conservation and awareness-raising activities;
- A workshop for the revision of the management plan was organized in December 2019. Its validation, including a risk management plan, is scheduled for 2021;
- Note N°0147/MCTL/CAB/SG/DPPCT of 20 March 2007 solicits the respect for traditional architecture for any architectural intervention on the site. It will be applied to the offices of the new town hall of Kéran 3 in Nadoba. Awareness-raising sessions are also conducted with the populations on this subject. A community museum conserving and exhibiting cultural objects of the Batammariba has been installed;
- A reflection is being carried out with the Ecole Africaine des Métiers de l'Architecture et de l'Urbanisme (EAMAU) and the Centre de la Construction et du Logement (CCL) to combine traditional architecture and improved local materials;
- Problems related to uncontrolled urbanization are noted in particular in the semi-urban area of Nadoba. To meet socio-economic needs, its city centre was proposed as a “tolerated zone” by the State Party in a report submitted to the Secretariat in 2011.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The efforts of the State Party and its partners to improve the state of conservation of the site since the bad weather of 2018 are to be welcomed and encouraged, in particular thanks to the funding from the Norwegian Government which has enabled inventory and mapping work and the site management plan review process. These documents, notably the management plan including a risk management plan, a conservation plan (procedures, practical guidelines, constructive cultures, traditional materials, construction systems, etc.) and a delimitation of the perimeter of the property and its buffer zone, must be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by ICOMOS before their validation.

Awareness-raising and involvement of local communities within the framework of projects funded by Norway, the World Monument Fund and the African World Heritage Fund, the establishment of the community museum, activities for the preservation of intangible heritage or the restoration and preservation of Sikien, are also welcomed. However, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to provide further details on the extent of the restoration work.

The creation of the SCPK is also positive. It is recommended that the State Party speed up the process to provide this service with adequate human and financial resources for the effective conservation, management and protection of the property.

The State Party's efforts to apply the provisions relating to architecture and town planning of Ministerial Decree N°0147/MCTL/CAB/SG/DPPCT, discussions with national technical partners (EAMAU and CCL) to ally traditional architecture with improved local materials, and reforestation activities, are welcomed. However, the continued emergence of new construction materials and forms and uncontrolled urbanization remain a concern. It is recommended that the State Party strengthen the actions undertaken and that the urban dimension of the property be fully reflected in the policies, measures and tools adopted for the conservation of the latter, drawing in particular on the Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape (2011). The second phase of the project funded at USD 100,000 by Norway should contribute to this reflection.

Due to COVID-19, the State Party was unable to invite the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission in accordance with Decision **43 COM 7B.112**.

Given the increasing pressure from urban development in the vicinity of the property, the proposal to consider Nadoba city centre as a “tolerated zone” and the aim to define an internal buffer zone and an integrated urbanization system for the property, it is recommended that the Committee reiterates its request to the State Party to invite the mission to fully assess the state of conservation of the property. The mission should also analyze the possible threat to OUV linked to the increasing urban pressure in and near the property and its possible impact on the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone, review the regulations intended to control this pressure and make recommendations to the Committee on the proposal to consider the city centre of Nadoba as a “tolerated zone”.

Lastly, given the proximity of the proposed new Kéran 3 town hall in Nadoba to the property, it is recommended, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, that the State Party submit the architectural documents and projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to authorization of construction.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.122**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.112**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the State Party and its partners to improve the state of conservation of the site since the bad weather of 2018, in particular through the implementation of the project “Improving the state of conservation of Koutammakou, the Land of the Batammariba” funded by the Government of Norway, and encourages the State Party to continue the efforts undertaken;*
4. *Welcomes the organization by the State Party and its partners of activities to raise awareness and strengthen the resilience of local communities, the establishment of a community museum, the continuation of reforestation actions, the promotion of activities contributing to the preservation of intangible heritage, the creation of a team of specialists to develop geographical and topographical maps of the site, the application of the provisions related to architecture and town planning of Ministerial Decree N°0147/MCTL/CAB/SG/DPPCT of 20 March 2007 and discussions with national technical partners to ally traditional architecture with improved local materials;*
5. *Notes with satisfaction the legal and legislative measures taken by the State Party for the creation of the Koutammakou Conservation and Promotion Service (SCPK), and requests the State Party to provide this service with sufficient human and financial resources for the effective conservation, management and protection of the property;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to finalize the management plan for the property integrating a risk management plan and a conservation plan (procedures, practical guidelines, constructive cultures, traditional materials, constructive systems, etc.) as well as an updated map clarifying the delimitation of the perimeter of the property and its buffer zone, and submit them as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before their validation;*
7. *Reiterates its concern about the growing development of urban pressure inside and near the property which may have a negative impact on the cultural landscape of Koutammakou, and recommends that the urban dimension of the property be fully reflected in the policies, measures and tools adopted for the conservation of the latter, drawing if necessary on the approach taken by the Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape (2011);*

8. *Thanks the donors who continue to support the conservation of the property, in particular the Government of Norway through its contribution to the World Heritage Fund;*
9. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to provide more details on the restoration measures of the Sikien underway, in particular with regard to the extent of the restoration works, the state of progress of the works, the location of the restored Sikien, types of work undertaken, and construction materials and systems;*
10. *Further requests the State Party to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, the documents and architectural projects for the offices of the new town hall of Kéran 3 in Nadoba to the World Heritage Centre for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies;*
11. *Takes note that the State Party was unable to invite the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM reactive monitoring mission requested in its Decision **43 COM 7B.112** due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and reiterates the need for this mission to be carried out as soon as circumstances allow in order to fully assess the state of conservation of the property, assess the state of the restoration of the Sikien, analyze the possible threat of urban pressure growing in and near the property to its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), review the regulations intended to control this pressure and to make recommendations to the Committee on the proposal to consider Nadoba city centre as a “tolerated zone”;*
12. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*



## ARAB STATES

### 123. Kasbah of Algiers (Algeria) (C 565)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (ii)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 5 (from 1993-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 92,600

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 100,000 for an international experts meeting on the safeguarding of the Kasbah of Algiers (Japanese funds-in-trust)

#### Previous monitoring missions

September 2001: World Heritage Centre expert mission; September 2002: World Heritage Centre mission for evaluating the State of Conservation. From October 2003 to November 2004: 3 World Heritage Centre missions in the framework of training and capacity building activities. From November 2007 to November 2009: Seven World Heritage Centre missions financed by the State Party for the Safeguarding Plan and the issue of the metro. May 2013: ICOMOS Advisory Mission for the development and beautification works in the city of Algiers. June 2015: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Natural erosion
- Lack of coordination of actions
- Lack of maintenance of dwelling places
- Land conversion: Change in the land use plan
- Loss of traditional conservation techniques
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan: Non-operational safeguarding plan
- Uncontrolled land use

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 14 December 2020, the State Party submitted a detailed report on the state of conservation of the property available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/565/documents/>. The progress made in terms of conservation is presented as follows:

- Between 2019 and 2020, the State Party identified forty-three buildings in a critical state of deterioration. The cause of the deterioration is mainly due to a lack of maintenance by the private users;
- Between April 2019 and June 2020, several housing units collapsed with, in some cases, tragic consequences for their inhabitants. To prevent any further collapse, a map of risks was established, and, an intervention protocol to safeguard the buildings and housing units and their

surroundings, and to rehouse their inhabitants, was implemented. Furthermore, an appraisal operation was carried out between June and July 2020 to update the state of conservation of the immovable cultural properties;

- As part of the implementation of the Permanent Plan for the Protection, Safeguarding and Valorisation of the Safeguarded Sector (PPSMVSS), many restoration works of public and private immovable cultural properties were launched. A programme of studies and restoration work has been undertaken, as well as maintenance, development and beautification operations. Finally, awareness-raising activities carried out by public authorities and civil society have been carried out;
- It has been noted that since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has strongly impacted the progress of the planned works and the completion of several ongoing projects;
- The State Party has reported on the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the "International Expert Meeting on the Conservation and Revitalization of the Kasbah of Algiers, World Heritage Site" (January 2018) organized by the Ministry of Culture and the World Heritage Centre, in particular with regard to establishing a single structure that includes all the institutions concerned, centralizing information and endowed with decision-making power and a high degree of autonomy. An Interministerial Council, under the auspices of the Prime Minister's office, was held on 8 December 2020 and recommended the establishment of an operational management strategy for the property focusing on the rehabilitation and safeguarding programme, while involving civil society;
- According to additional information received from the State Party, a final report is expected to be submitted in the coming months regarding the excavation and analysis of archaeological discoveries that are underway since 2013 and are being carried out by the National Archaeological Research Centre (CNRA)/National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research (INRAP);
- According to additional information received from the State Party, the Tripartite Agreement which was signed in December 2018 between the Wilaya of Algiers, the Ile-de-France region and Ateliers Jean-Nouvel regarding the revitalization of the Kasbah is no longer in force.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The report submitted by the State Party shows that it is making significant efforts to improve the state of conservation of the property. Nevertheless, the progressive degradation of buildings and housing units remains a concern. The lack of maintenance by the regular occupants, and the difficulties in identifying the private owners, are considered to be the main causes of this situation. The authorities' efforts to raise awareness among users and regular occupants on the maintenance and conservation of their housing is welcomed, and the State Party is encouraged to strengthen these ongoing efforts.

The collapse of several housing units between April 2019 and June 2020, in some cases with tragic consequences for their occupants, requires diligent risk management. The measures taken by the State Party to secure the buildings and their surroundings (risk mapping, intervention protocol, etc.) and the rehousing of 912 families are appreciated. However, the impact of these measures must be monitored and the danger of a gradual forced abandonment of the heart of the Kasbah by its original inhabitants has to be pointed out.

As underlined by the recommendations of the "International Expert Meeting on the Conservation and Revitalisation of the Kasbah of Algiers, World Heritage Site" organized by the Ministry of Culture and the World Heritage Centre from 20 to 23 January 2018, the need to improve the institutional management of the property, through a single structure comprising all the institutions concerned, centralizing information and endowed with decision-making power, is considered a sustainable solution for the rehabilitation of its urban ensemble and the revitalisation of its socio-economic fabric. Intersectoral governance is essential to put an end to the fragmentation of responsibilities and programmes that hinder the integrated safeguarding and rehabilitation of the property.

The first Interministerial Council dedicated to the property held on 8 December 2020 is welcomed. It is recommended that the strategy for the rehabilitation and safeguarding of the Kasbah, which was requested at this Council, be based on a socio-economic approach that integrates the 2011 Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape. The planned participation of civil society in this context is welcomed and is considered essential for the success of any safeguarding and conservation initiative. Furthermore, the State Party is invited to submit the draft strategy to the World

Heritage Centre for evaluation as soon as it is prepared as part of the follow-up mechanism to the recommendations of the Meeting, in order to support, on a technical level, the Algerian authorities in their ongoing efforts.

Finally, the quality of the work of the different actors (public authorities and civil society) involved in the conservation and rehabilitation of the Kasbah should be recognized, despite the slowdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The development and beautification works of the historic centre, in particular those concerning the vaults of the Place des Martyrs and the Port of Algiers, which reconnect the Kasbah to the city and the sea, are also appreciated and contribute to the reintegration of the property into its urban landscape. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies remain at the disposal of the State Party for any future requests for a heritage impact assessment in this regard.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.123**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.40**, adopted at its 43rd sessions (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Takes note of the efforts made by the State Party to improve the management and the state of conservation of the property, and commends it for the quality of the conservation and restoration work carried out which, in some cases, involved the participation of the civil society;*
4. *Expresses its concern about the recent collapse of residential buildings and the progressive degradation of forty-three buildings in the property and urges the State Party to continue to take the necessary measures in this regard by adopting an inclusive approach and an integrated and coordinated management of the physical and socio-economic interventions to guarantee the safeguarding of the social and economic fabric without which the Kasbah would be “deprived” of its inhabitants and urban functions;*
5. *Encourages in this regard the State Party to take into consideration the social and economic dimension of the safeguarding of the property by accompanying the restoration works of the buildings with measures aimed at encouraging the reopening of businesses and workshops or the creation of new activities;*
6. *Invites the State Party to share with the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is drawn up, the final report regarding the results of the excavation and analysis of archaeological discoveries since 2013 as part of the Place des Martyrs metro station project, aimed at reconciling the imperatives of urban development with the need to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
7. *Notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the State Party in the implementation of the recommendations of the international experts meeting on the safeguarding of the Kasbah organized in January 2018, and the implementation of an Interministerial Council under the auspices of the Prime Minister’s office, to coordinate a multisectoral planning of urban development integrating heritage conservation issues and socio-economic revitalisation to ensure that all urban planning includes the Kasbah within the city of Algiers as a whole;*
8. *Also takes note that a rehabilitation and safeguarding strategy of the property was recommended at the first meeting of the Interministerial Council regarding the property and also invites the State Party to take into account an approach focused on the Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape (2011), in order to define a comprehensive framework to support the effective implementation of the Permanent*

*Plan for the Protection, Safeguarding and Valorisation of the Safeguarded Sector (PPSMVSS) and the conduct of all other actions to improve the state of conservation of the property; and recommends the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies this strategy as soon as it has been established for examination;*

9. *Reminds the State Party of the need to inform the World Heritage Centre of any new developments planned on the property and to carry out impact assessments on the property before undertaking or authorising major restorations or new constructions that could alter the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
10. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **124. Tipasa (Algeria) (C 193)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1982

Criteria (iii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 2002-2006

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/193/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1989-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 75,900

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/193/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 9,564 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust

### Previous monitoring missions

1989-1992: 4 UNESCO expert missions; 2002: 2 expert missions and 1 World Heritage Centre mission; March 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2017: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Deliberate destruction of heritage: Deterioration of the remains due to vandalism, theft and uncontrolled visitation causing accumulation of rubbish
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition: Natural degradation caused by littoral erosion, marine salt, rainwater runoff and vegetation covering part of the inscribed sectors
- Housing
- Human resources: Lack of capacities for site conservation,
- Illegal activities: Urbanisation on the outskirts of the property where, in the absence of a defined buffer zone, illegal construction provokes land disputes
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Management activities
- Marine transport infrastructure: Proposed port development
- Unsuitable restoration techniques, and poor conservation conditions for the archaeological remains

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/193/>

### Current conservation issues

On 14 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/193/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The following conservation and maintenance activities were reported:
  - Weekly monitoring is carried out by a multi-disciplinary team; conservation conditions are reported as satisfactory and not deteriorating,
  - Work continues on an inventory of moveable and immovable heritage, and their documentation,
  - Site maintenance has taken place, including vegetation removal and repair of perimeter fences, as well as a risk prevention programme, which includes closing off dangerous site areas and reinforcing security,
  - A partnership agreement was signed with the US Embassy for the protection of Algerian cultural heritage, including Tipasa,
  - New signage and site panels are being installed across the property,
  - A mosaic conservation workshop has been established, with a technical team in place and a manager appointed who will take forward an action plan,
  - A study is being developed to use Villa Angelevy as an interpretation centre,
  - Training in different areas such as conservation of mosaics and cultural heritage protection;
- Drafting of the Management Plan continues with a first section completed on the property's values and attributes. Stakeholder consultation is planned to accompany the next stages of work;
- The urgent situation of the eroded cliff supporting the West Archaeological Park necessitated the works which were carried out in April 2019 to avoid a landslide with potential risk to both people and heritage. The project was provided to the World Heritage Centre and an expert mission is planned to consider long-term solutions when the health situation allows;
- Rainwater pooling will be addressed in 2021 as soon as the health situation allows for surveying work to be carried out;
- A collaborative project has been launched to survey the underwater heritage in the immediate vicinity of the property in order to inform plans for extending the buffer zone; this will take place in 2021 when the health situation allows.

Finally, the State Party notes that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all components of Tipasa have been closed to the public since March 2020.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has demonstrated that efforts are being taken to ensure the on-going conservation and maintenance of the property at all three components, as well as to address outstanding management tasks. However, it is noted that the COVID-19 pandemic situation is delaying many of the collaborative projects underway at the property, as well as some activities that require in-person presence of external specialists. In addition, the closure of the property to the public has affected the income available from ticket sales for future site upkeep.

The delivery of a first section of the management plan is a reassuring sign that drafting is underway and that management efforts will be rooted in a values-based approach focusing on Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). However, additional progress is needed in the near future in order to complete the other sections of the document and with the engagement of stakeholders.

An impact assessment regarding a proposed port development project was appended to the State Party's 2018 report on the state of conservation. This document integrated discussion of the landscaping of the jetty, as requested in the Committee Decision. However, the proposed project does not appear to have been adjusted to respond to the recommendations provided in the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission report before any implementation. In addition, it is noted that the

impact assessment identifies many significant potential impacts on the OUV with suggestions for mitigation measures and other management actions that should take place. The State Party should be invited to revise the port development project in light of both the 2017 mission's recommendations and the suggested mitigation measures from the impact assessment.

It is noted that the part of the proposed port development project to reinforce the eroded cliff supporting the West Archaeological Park has already taken place, despite the Committee Decision requesting work to be suspended. The urgent nature of the situation justifies this, as a landslide would have placed both people and heritage at risk, including attributes of OUV. However, additional steps should be taken to improve the final result: an expert consulted by the World Heritage Centre has already provided the State Party with technical feedback on the project that was implemented, with some comments on long-term considerations that now need to be discussed. A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission is foreseen as soon as the health situation allows international travel.

The State Party is addressing the issue of the maritime extension to the buffer zone and is taking a commendable approach based on identifying cultural heritage within the marine area adjacent to the property in order to inform the precise extent of the buffer zone. In this respect, synergies with the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage can take place. However, it is noted that the survey work required is on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, a project to resolve the issue of rainwater pooling is also delayed until teams are able to work on site once more.

The Committee had previously asked for a lighting system proposal to be reviewed and it is noted that the State Party did not provide an update on this.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.124**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.41**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Takes note of the progress being made by the State Party to improve the safety, security, monitoring, maintenance, and documentation of the property, and reiterates its recommendation that the lighting system be reviewed to ensure the most appropriate solution possible is being implemented;*
4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to finalize and provide an electronic copy of the updated Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Requests the State Party to revise the proposed port development project in light of the recommendations of the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission and the mitigation measures suggested in the impact assessment;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property, in order to advise on long-term solutions for reinforcing the cliff under the West Archaeological Park and related issues within the proposed port development project;*
7. *Also encourages the State Party to resume the studies for the maritime extension to the buffer zone and for addressing rainwater pooling as soon as the sanitary situation allows activities to be safely undertaken on site;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2023**, 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 47th session in 2024.*

## **125. Qal'at al-Bahrain – Ancient Harbour and Capital of Dilmun (Bahrain) (C 1992ter)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1192/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (in 2002)

Total amount approved: USD 26,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1192/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

January-February 2006: World Heritage Centre mission; June 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; July 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (issue resolved)
- Housing
- Physical and visual integrity of the property threatened by a segment of the “N Road” project, a highway planned on the northern coast of the country whose route is expected to cross the western part of the buffer zone, at a fifty meters distance from the boundaries of the property
- Physical and visual integrity threatened by the urban and architectural development projects around the protected area
- Project of land reclamation (North Star) in the bay in front of the property, as well as the project of a fishing harbour (issue resolved)
- Road connectivity between Nurana Island and mainland Bahrain
- Use and controls affecting lands within the area designated for the extension of the property
- Visual integrity threatened by a project of a causeway foreseen off the northern coast as part of the global response to the traffic congestion in this part of the country (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1192/>

Current conservation issues

On 21 January 2021, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1192/documents/>, which reports the following activities:

- The proposed introduction of the heritage specific zoning in the *Prime Ministerial Edict No. 28 of 2009: Zoning Regulations for Construction* continues to be pursued by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) in partnership with the General Directorate for Urban Planning, under the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, which represents this joint initiative in the Cabinet. Discussions continue regarding the number and types of heritage zones to be included, specifically concerning the allocation of agricultural and urban heritage areas. To facilitate an agreed and sustainable outcome, the BACA proposes that the timeframe for the draft new zoning regulations be extended by up to four years, acknowledging that the proposed new regulations will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review;

- The BACA has not received final design details of construction methods for the proposed 'Road Connectivity for Nurana Island' project tunnel but acknowledges that these details will be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before the project proceeds;
- In September 2020, the World Heritage Centre was advised of reclamation activity, undertaken without a permit, resulting in the intrusion of a land mass into along the eastern shore of the visual corridor, which constitutes the maritime buffer zone of the property. The BACA acted to ensure that the construction work was halted immediately. The unlawful reclamation has already been partially removed, required resources have been allocated, and the BACA is coordinating with the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning and local municipal authorities, to manage and monitor the progress of the removal of the remaining unlawfully reclaimed area.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party has previously acknowledged and responded positively to the need for legal protection and planning frameworks to facilitate the conservation of the attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The new zoning codes are critical to this process and will not only help to protect the property itself, but will also contribute more generally to heritage protection. The notification of an extended timeframe is therefore disappointing, but the importance of resolving an agreed position on the number and types of heritage zones, and particularly agricultural and urban heritage areas, with the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning is recognised. Therefore, the extended timeframe is acknowledged, but it remains important that the process be followed through, as envisaged by Decisions **41 COM 7B.75** and **43 COM 7B.42**, including signed memoranda of understanding with the owners of lands located within the area designated for extension of the property, in order to improve its management and conservation.

The process followed and the decisions already made regarding the road connectivity project for Nurana Island demonstrate the commitment of the State Party to affording primacy to the conservation of the OUV of the property. The Committee has already acknowledged by Decision **43 COM 7B.42** that the tunnel will not substantively affect the OUV of the property, subject to the final design resolution and decisions on construction methodology. It is therefore important that the State Party fulfill its commitment to submit project design details for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before the project proceeds.

The reported unlawful land reclamation within a significant visual corridor that is part of the buffer zone of the property gives rise to concerns regarding the enforcement of appropriate land and sea controls and processes. However, the reaction of BACA and other State Party agencies has been prompt and appropriate.

Noting the processes already in train for submission of documentation and notification under Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and the expected timing for resolution of the proposed planning framework and land use zones, it would be appropriate for the Committee to allow a four year period before reconsidering the state of conservation of the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.125**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.42**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Notes that the State Party remains committed to incorporating new codes within the amended Prime Ministerial Edict No. 28 of 2009: *Zoning Regulations for Construction*, but that this process is ongoing and is not expected to be completed for some years;
4. Reiterates its request that the State Party also pursue signed memoranda of understanding with the owners of lands located within the area designated for the extension of the property, in order to improve its management and conservation;



5. *Also reiterates its request that final designs and details of construction methods for the proposed tunnel to Nurana Island be submitted for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to the commencement of any on-site works;*
6. *Notes with concern that unlawful land reclamation has occurred within a significant visual corridor that is part of the buffer zone of the property, and requests the State Party to advise the World Heritage Centre once the required remedial works are completed;*
7. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2024, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session in 2025.*

**126. Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis (Egypt) (C 87)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**127. Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur (Egypt) (C 86)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**128. Baptism Site “Bethany Beyond the Jordan” (Al-Maghtas) (Jordan) (C 1446)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**129. Um er-Rasas (Kastrom Mefa’a) (Jordan) (C 1093)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2004

Criteria (i)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 2007-2009)

Total amount approved: USD 34,750

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 6,000 from the Italian Funds-in-Trust

### Previous monitoring missions

March-April 2005: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ ICOMOS Reactive monitoring mission; March 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive monitoring mission; July 2008: World Heritage Centre expert mission for the Stylite tower

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Important tourism development project with new constructions (issue resolved)
- Lack of comprehensive conservation plan, public use plan and archaeological research plan integrated with management plan
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan: complex management systems / structure
- Unstable structures and lack of security and planned conservation action

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1093/documents/>, and presents progress in addressing a number of conservation issues identified by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The Department of Antiquities is exploring the undertaking of a work-plan, public use plan and archaeological research policy in response to repeated requests from the World Heritage Committee, but financial and human resource issues mean that the documents will be pursued in the future on an *ad hoc* basis;
- Action has been limited to identifying five priorities for works based on the 2017 Management Plan: The Stylite Tower; The Castrum Fortification; Restoration and Maintenance of Mosaics and Archaeological Features; Interpretation of the Site; and Public Safety;
- The property's newly-allocated budget was dedicated to the 'Um er-Rasas Restoration and Maintenance project', which will address four axes: Documentation (of the Castrum); Restoration and Maintenance (mosaic floors; St Stephen's walls; plaster work); Site Interpretation (replacing damaged signage; introducing new signage and panels); and Public Safety (fences around fall-dangers and the Stylite Tower; maintenance of trails and church shelters);
- The Department of Antiquities plans to cooperate with the UNESCO Amman Office to assess and improve the conservation of the Stylite Tower, in line with geotechnical, geophysical and geostructural analysis (2014), but this has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and put on hold;
- A survey by drone is planned for the Castrum as the basis for the numbering and rearranging of stones in the outer elevations, as and when funding is available;
- A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission will be invited to the property when COVID-19 restrictions allow, and once the planning for work on the Stylite Tower with the UNESCO Amman Office, and documentation of the Castrum and a related work-plan, have been drafted;
- The need to expand the buffer zone has been investigated by an expert committee that has determined that current property and buffer zone boundaries are adequate to protect the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and attributes. Private land within the buffer zone is either being progressively acquired by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, or specific planning regulations are being planned for its management;
- The State Party indicates that administrative complexities in budget supply have been addressed and that the allocated budgets of the Department of Antiquities and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities have been coordinated to improve the flow of available funds.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

It is recommended that the State Party be congratulated on the adoption of the 'Um er-Rasas Restoration and Maintenance project' as a step towards implementing the 2017 Management Plan. However, it is noted that the development of a conservation plan, public use plan and archaeological

research policy, as recommended to be included in the Conservation Plan by the World Heritage Committee several times over recent years, has been put on hold due to financial and human resources constraints. As has been noted previously, the 2017 Management Plan contains sections that provide a good basis for the development of these necessary support documents, but they need to be developed further to provide practical guidance for on-ground planning and decision making. The State Party should be again encouraged to continue to give high priority to the development of the conservation plan, public use plan and archaeological research policy as critical tools that support the Management Plan and the protection of OUV.

It should be noted that the review of the buffer zone boundaries is in keeping with the 2017 Management Plan, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue to periodically review the adequacy of the boundaries of the buffer zone to guarantee the protection of the property's OUV, and, if necessary, propose minor boundary modifications.

It should be noted that out of the 100 recommended actions contained in the 2017 Management Plan, 75 are given 'high priority' status. This does not provide a helpful basis for prioritizing the allocation of the scarce financial resources. While the five priorities selected by the 'Um er-Rasas Restoration and Maintenance project' for action include works urgently needed for the protection of attributes of OUV, it is still necessary to develop planning documents and undertake related works that would address the conservation of the property as a whole and better inform long-term decision-making. It is advised that the State Party be encouraged to further refine and elaborate the priority ranking of the Implementation Action Plan within the 2017 Management Plan in order to provide a balanced and practical list of priorities for work programs in coming years.

The design of the proposed structural consolidation program for the Stylite Tower will be developed in conjunction with the UNESCO Amman Office, based on earlier technical studies previously submitted to the World Heritage Centre. As the project is currently awaiting relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions, a temporary fence is to be built around the tower for its protection in the short term. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate the need for the submission of a works proposal to the World Heritage Centre before works commence.

The State Party indicates that ongoing restoration work is continuing in the excavated parts of the Castrum, and that proposed works on the unexcavated part of the Castrum are limited to survey, modelling and drawing as a preliminary to planning future conservation work. However, while this work is welcomed, there is no response to the Committee's urging of temporary works to protect fragile elements of the Castrum while planning works progress. A clarification should be sought on the nature of urgent conservation works to the south wall identified in the 2017 Management Plan, the urgent consolidation of the already-excavated gates and walls of the Castrum, and how the State Party intends to address this reported threat to a major attribute of OUV.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.129**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.47**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party on continuing to implement the Management Plan for Um er-Rasas and, while acknowledging that the Management Plan contains sections that underpin the development of the previously-requested Conservation Plan including a detailed work-plan, Public Use Plan and archaeological research policy, reiterates its request that these aspects of site management be explored in more detail;*
4. *Encourages the State Party to further refine and elaborate the priority ranking of the Implementation Action Plan within the 2017 Management Plan in order to provide a balanced and practical list of priorities for work programs prior to the finalisation of the previously requested Conservation Plan and incorporated work-plan;*

5. Also reiterates its request that the State Party submit the final conservation project proposal for the Stylite Tower as soon as possible for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, and urges the State Party to continue monitoring the conservation situation closely;
6. Notes the inclusion of the survey of the Castrum in the current work program, but reiterates its concern that the urgent conservation work at the Castrum identified in the Management Plan does not appear to have taken place (including urgent conservation work to the south wall and the already excavated gates and walls), and also urges the State Party to undertake all needed temporary and reversible consolidation interventions of the fragile attributes across the whole property while planning for longer-term conservation;
7. Welcomes the State Party's undertaking to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission to support the finalization of outstanding projects when COVID-19 restrictions allow;
8. Also notes the State Party's decision, after expert consideration, to confirm that existing property and buffer zone boundaries are appropriate for the protection of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and also encourages the State Party to continue to review the boundaries of the buffer zone in keeping with the 2017 Management Plan and, if necessary, propose minor boundary modifications;
9. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

### 130. Byblos (Lebanon) (C 295)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 10,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

1995, 1997, 1998 and 2001: Different missions for the evaluation of the state of conservation and project execution in Lebanon, including Byblos; November 2001: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2006: UNESCO expert mission to Lebanon; February 2017: World Heritage Centre mission; 2018 UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Port expansion project (issue resolved)
- Need for a Management Plan and a Master Plan (issue resolved)

- Plans for an extension of the jetty (issue resolved)
- Tourism infrastructure: “Diplomatic Club” project with above ground structures of reinforced concrete built at the south of the property on potentially archaeologically sensitive grounds
- Management systems/ management plan: Unclear boundary definition of property and buffer zone
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition: Environmental risks - coastal erosion of the Byblos mound due to the heavy tidal impact of the sea.

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 4 March 2021, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/295/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented, as follows:

- All works on the ‘Diplomatic Club’ beach resort project adjacent to the archaeological area have been stopped, and no further archaeological investigations conducted on this private property since the execution of the project was suspended in April 2017;
- Conservation and consolidation of the excavated remains are priority maintenance measures, focusing on archaeological features at risk and the removal of harmful vegetation;
- A vegetation management plan is being elaborated with the ‘Nature Conservation Center’ of the American University of Beirut to promote endemic plants and to control species that might pose a threat to the archaeological remains;
- Detailed documentation activities are being carried out including topographic and architectural surveys with the use of laser scan technology;
- Refurbishment and restoration of two historic buildings at the archaeological sites foreseen for site management offices and museum functions had to be postponed due to the economic crisis;
- Within the Historic City adjacent to the archaeological site, the new *Centre for Research and Conservation of Lebanese Cultural Heritage (CRCPL)* has been fully equipped and has become operational with activities taking place.

The State Party reports that the country has been seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing economic crisis, and therefore all major interventions in the archaeological site have stopped.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The opening of the new CRCPL is acknowledged, and it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to organise further capacity building activities in order to develop the Centre as an internationally-acknowledged research and educational facility on archaeological conservation and management practices.

It is recalled that the ‘Diplomatic Club’ beach resort project was originally proposed as an ecotourism project with park-like landscaping and some recreational facilities on private land. The World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS supported the principle of this proposal as it would have produced desirable ecological and archaeological outcomes, preserving attributes reflecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, while helping to separate the property from nearby beachfront tourism activities in the southern part of the World Heritage property, for which no clear boundaries or buffer zones have been established to date.

The 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission ascertained that significant incremental changes had been made to the initial project design that would create a large tourism facility, which would consume natural resources and therefore not be consistent with the original ecotourism concept, nor provide a buffer from nearby tourism activities. Therefore, the activities raised the concern of the Committee, which requested the State Party to suspend the construction works and allow a thorough archaeological investigation to clarify the existence of evidence that may reflect the property’s OUV, such as that relating to a Phoenician port facility, which would be an archaeological site of great importance directly related to the ancient city of Byblos.

It is considered that the Committee's previous request to suspend the project in its current and unrevised form continues to be justified. In addition, further excavation would be required to determine whether any material remains, particularly in the deeper archaeological strata, are associated with the ancient port of Byblos. The State Party has indicated that the project and the archaeological investigations that needed to be undertaken prior to the continuation of the works have been suspended. Given the potential impact that a project in the area may have on the OUV of the property, it is crucial that any future project planned in this area is preceded by a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) prepared in accordance with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines, taking into account the results of the archaeological investigations into the nature and extent of the archaeological features.

In 2019, a boundary clarification proposal relating to the extent of the property at the time of inscription was submitted by the State Party, who is currently undertaking its review based on feedback by the World Heritage Centre.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to revise the boundary of the property, including a buffer zone, and to develop a minor boundary modification proposal in consultation with the Advisory Bodies.

The issues addressed by the 2018 mission remain relevant and it is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to implement the mission's recommendations, including those addressing the conservation and management of the property, possible synergies with other UNESCO conventions, and the need for a sustainable tourism plan. The preparation of a plan for the management of the property's natural resources is considered an important step forward in establishing sustainable site maintenance practices adapted to the harsh environmental conditions that prevail at the property.

The World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies understand the difficulties faced by the States Party due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic situation. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to request International Assistance in order to address pending issues, such as the elaboration of the Management Plan and other management tools.

It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the OUV of the property, in accordance with paragraph 172 of *Operational Guidelines*, before decisions are made that would be difficult to reverse.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.130**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **42 COM 7B.56** and **43 COM 7B.48**, adopted at its 42nd (Manama, 2018) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Acknowledges that the Centre for Research and Conservation of Lebanese Cultural Heritage has become operational, and encourages the State Party to carry out further capacity building activities in order to develop the centre as an internationally-acknowledged research and educational facility on archaeological conservation and management practices;*
4. *Notes that all works on the 'Diplomatic Club' touristic beach resort project adjacent to the property have been suspended, as requested in its previous Decision, and that no further archaeological investigations have been conducted since;*
5. *Reiterates its concern that the project in its current form is not suitable, and also notes that any enhancement of the direct surroundings of the archaeological area must ensure appropriate environmental and archaeological outcomes for the World Heritage property, and that any project planned adjacent to the excavated areas should be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment prior to any construction;*

6. Also notes the efforts of the State Party to clarify the extent of the property at the time of inscription, and requests the State Party, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to elaborate and submit a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraphs 107 and 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Urges the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2018 mission report, with particular attention to the following:
  - a) Exploring synergies with the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
  - b) Developing a management plan with provisions for sustainable tourism, conservation activities, and regular maintenance,
  - c) Establishing a national data management strategy that ensures making documentation and inventory information available for site management and research at the local level,
  - d) Considering the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach for integrating the management plan with the urban development for the old town of Byblos;
8. Also encourages the State Party to submit an International Assistance request to support efforts in the elaboration of needed management tools;
9. Invites the State Party to inform the Committee, through the World Heritage Centre, of any future plans for major restoration or new construction projects that may affect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

### **131. Ouadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab) (Lebanon) (C 850)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1998

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1993-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 65,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 500,000 from the Italian funds-in-Trust for the rehabilitation and valorization of the Qadisha Valley

### Previous monitoring missions

June 2003: World Heritage Centre Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Absence of coordination mechanisms
- Degradation of the mural paintings and buildings
- Financial resources: Lack of resources for the management structure
- Housing
- Illegal activities: Illegal constructions and urban encroachments
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Land conversion
- Legal framework: Absence of legislative framework
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure: Uncontrolled tourist development and absence of visitor management
- Management systems/ management plan: Absence of a comprehensive management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2021, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/850/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented, as follows:

- Presentation and restoration projects at four sites in the Holly Valley have been finalized, and similar projects in the Houlet-Hadshit Valley are being studied and implemented. A path to join both valleys is foreseen;
- Details on the nomination of a Director for the Management Committee and information on the Committee's functions, goals and tasks have been provided;
- Measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic have been applied within the property;
- The process of revising the boundaries of the property was started, but has been halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The first phase of the "Rehabilitation and Valorization of Ouadi Qadisha" project is being implemented. Financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, it includes the rehabilitation and conservation of different components of the property. The second phase has been validated by the Directorate General of Antiquities (DGA) and its implementation has been scheduled for 2021;
- Regarding implementation of the Action Plan (prepared in close cooperation between the General Directorate of Antiquities (DGA) and the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut and approved in 2015), four projects on the presentation and restoration of monuments have been finalized and five conservation projects in the Hadshit Valley are ongoing. A project to build a suspension bridge in order to improve accessibility to the village of Qannoubine has been proposed. The conservation of the textiles of the Assi El Hadath mummies by the Abegg foundation in Switzerland will be executed following a contractual agreement with the Ministry of Culture;
- Two projects, the first one related to a road to access the Hadshit cemetery and the second to a roadway connecting the village of Hadath el Jebbeh to the village of Qannoubine, were determined by the State Party to have impacts on the authenticity of the property. As a result, the DGA halted work on the cemetery access road in 2019 and proposed an alternative that involves dividing the project into three sections to avoid further damage to the property. Upon the DGA's request, ICOMOS Lebanon submitted a study recommending corrective measures. In relation to the road connecting Hadath el Jebbeh to Qannoubine, the State Party indicates that, for the moment, the DGA has withheld authorization.



### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

It is noted that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other difficulties, the State Party has managed to progress in the implementation of projects such as the “Rehabilitation and Valorization of Ouadi Qadisha” with the support of the UNESCO Beirut Office, as well as other activities related to the presentation, restoration and conservation of the property and its movable heritage. The Ouadi Qadisha project falls within the framework of the Action Plan for the development of cultural assets of the Qadisha Valley and is envisaged to have positive impact concerning sustainable tourism. Given the current health situation and other challenges faced, it is recommended that more awareness-raising activities and sustainable solutions be proposed within the framework of this project.

Information on the Management Committee has been provided, including the recent nomination of a Director as well as the regular activities undertaken by the Committee.

The halt to the ongoing revision of boundaries of the property and its buffer zone due to the COVID-19 pandemic is well noted. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue this process in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS, once the situation allows, and to submit a Boundary Clarification to be followed by a Minor Boundary Modification in line with Paragraph 164 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party reported on a number of activities that have either been implemented or are underway within the framework of the agreed upon Action Plan and previous Committee decisions. Nevertheless, the State Party has not commented on the long-term implementation of the Action Plan in a holistic manner. It is therefore recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to continue to ensure the holistic implementation of the Action Plan for the World Heritage property.

It is welcomed that the inappropriate construction of the road to access the Hadshit cemetery has been halted and that alternative corrective measures have been proposed. It is recommended that more details on the proposed solution, and on the project for the roadway connecting Hadath el Jebbeh to Qannoubine, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, including a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for each proposed project.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.131**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.49**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the information provided on the Management Committee and its activities;*
4. *Notes that a revision of the property and buffer zone boundaries has been temporarily halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and requests the State Party to pursue its finalization in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies as soon as the situation allows, and to submit it as a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraph 164 of the Operational Guidelines;*
5. *Also notes that the “Rehabilitation and Valorization of Ouadi Qadisha” project has completed its first phase and that a second phase has been validated to be implemented in 2021, and encourages the State Party to propose more awareness-raising activities and sustainable solutions within the framework of this project;*
6. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure the implementation of the Action Plan for the World Heritage property in a holistic manner, ensuring the integration of sustainable development components, and to inform the World Heritage Centre on the progress;*

7. *Also welcomes the actions taken to avoid new projects affecting the authenticity of the property, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for evaluation by the Advisory Bodies, detailed information and a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for any project that may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage property, before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

### 132. Tyr (Lebanon) (C 299)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1986-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 29,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 19,173 (1997-2001) for the International Safeguarding Campaign; USD 362,391 (2015-2017) from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation through the Lebanese Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR); USD 320,673 from the Lebanese Government for capacity- building exercise

#### Previous monitoring missions

2004: Evaluation mission by the UNESCO Office in Beirut; September 2006: UNESCO mission following the 2006 summer conflict; February 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2017: visit of the property by the World Heritage Centre; October 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Need for an international safeguarding campaign (issue resolved)
- Construction of a tourist complex (land fill of the bay) (issue resolved)
- Construction project of a large fish market (issue resolved)
- Construction project of a coastal motorway (issue resolved)
- Project to build a new tourist marina (issue resolved)
- Road construction project (issue resolved)
- Need for an Urban Master Plan for the city
- Lack of management mechanism (including legislation)
- Housing: Uncontrolled housing development next to the property
- Management systems/ management plan: Absence of a management plan, unclear property boundaries and legal status on the extent of the property
- Legal framework: Insufficient legal framework for an efficient buffer such as lack of a maritime protection zone around the seashores of Tyre

- Human Resources: Management system affected by the shortage of human resources directly leading to insufficient maintenance, vegetation control and fire prevention and lack of consistent preservation plan
- Transport infrastructure: planning of major highway near the property and repeated local intentions of the redevelopment of the port
- Sea-shore environmental local conditions affecting physical fabric, especially soft stone surfaces
- Insufficient drainage of stagnating waters and uncontrolled surface water flows undermine wall foundations and stability of structures

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/>

*Conservation issues presented to the World Heritage Committee in 2021*

On 4 March 2021, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/299/documents>. Information regarding several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The development of the land earmarked for car parking adjacent to the World Heritage component of Al-Bass has been put on hold. As recommended by the Committee, the negotiations with the municipality on car parking management details are ongoing and have been partially completed;
- The Management Plan Framework document is being revised in collaboration with international experts to incorporate the Committee recommendations. A planned series of activities, including a workshop with the UNESCO office in Beirut, had to be postponed due to the pandemic, and it is expected that the Management Plan will be adopted in 2021;
- The identification of boundaries of the property and buffer zone has been conducted based on the 2002 Urban Plan of the city of Tyre in consultation with various governmental bodies, and is expected to be finalized in 2022;
- A planned and budgeted survey to determine the Maritime Protection Zone's boundaries had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and is re-scheduled for 2021;
- Since 2000, various conservation measures have been planned and completed, taking into account several international expert missions' comments. The current focus is on local staff qualification through collaboration with ICCROM and the Getty Conservation Institute under the MOSAIKON initiative;
- The Tyre Transport and Mobility Plan has not been amended and remains in place as previously reported.

In February 2020, the World Heritage Centre received information from a third party about a project proposal within the Cultural Heritage and Urban Development Project (CHUD) of Tyre programme, which proposes an 'upgrade' of the coastline adjacent to the archaeological area of the World Heritage component of the old city of Tyre. It is proposed to make the isolated land tip accessible to car traffic, create parking places, and replace the current thirty-year-old seasonally used restaurant bungalows with upgraded restaurant terraces built directly atop and in between the underwater archaeological remains. The World Heritage Centre requested clarification from the State Party in that regard.

The State Party reports that the country has been seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing economic crisis.

In February 2021, an oil spill in the Mediterranean Sea reached the southern coast of Lebanon, impacting the Tyre Coast Nature Reserve. According to information received by the World Heritage Centre, the property was not directly impacted, however the underwater archaeological remains pertaining to the World Heritage property may have been affected, for which an assessment may be necessary.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the national economic crisis are severely affecting both the public and private sectors. It is noted that these external factors have slowed down many activities of the State Party.

It is further noted that agreement has been reached between relevant stakeholders on the management arrangements for the creation of communal car parking within the boundaries of the archaeological area.

It is recommended that the Committee request details of this agreement to be submitted for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Although the authorities have taken some steps to implement the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee's decisions, many critical conservation and management issues have not been resolved and the previously identified factors affecting the property remain.

In particular, it is regrettable that no progress has been reported on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission. The mission identified shortcomings in the property's management system, partly due to persistent insufficient human resources, resulting in a significant lack of maintenance. Management is also hampered by the inflexible operating rules of the international funding programme for the implementation of conservation measures within the Baalbek Tyre Archaeological Project (BTAP). The State Party has not provided any information as to how the impact of the many previous conservation measures on the archaeological remains is being monitored. In addition to adapted conservation practices for mosaics *in situ*, an evaluation of the effectiveness of previous conservation measures is required as an evidence base for future decision-making and guidance for ongoing skills training for new staff.

In particular, the approach to partial reconstructions/anastylosis of disassembled archaeological features needs to be urgently reconsidered, focusing on minimal interventions and protection, including the complete re-burial of the Apollo Shrine, in order to maintain the authenticity of the existing archaeological remains. This holistic "lesson's learned" aspect is required for the comprehensive conservation and presentation strategy for the entire property beyond single interventions suggested by the 2018 mission.

In light of the third-party information, it remains unclear how the State Party enforces legal mechanisms to protect certain sensitive archaeological areas and the property's wider setting.

The existing and unchanged Tyre Transport and Mobility Plan has been of particular concern to the Committee, as it lacks a comprehensive study of the entire urban road network and the highway project and its potential impact on the World Heritage property. It is recalled that a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and the results from geophysical surveys and archaeological investigation are to be taken into account in the study.

It is further recalled that these clarifications are considered an essential part of the development of a Minor Boundary Modification as previously recommended by the Committee, and that, in addition to the establishment of the property boundaries, the adoption of a maritime protection zone has been a persistent request of the Committee for many years.

It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to give the highest priority to the completion of the Management Plan Framework document, as it is the guiding document for addressing issues affecting the property, and to submit the revised document to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to address its previous requests (Decisions **39 COM 7B.54**, **41 COM 7B.83**, **43 COM 7B.50**), and implement the recommendations of the 2018 mission.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.132**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 8B.45**, **39 COM 7B.54**, **41 COM 7B.83**, and **43 COM 7B.50** adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Taking note of the establishment of a partial agreement between the primary stakeholders (DGA, Municipality of Tyre) for the creation of municipal parking within the Archaeological Zone, encourages the State Party to submit the details of this*

arrangement and design details to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;

4. Urges the State Party to implement the decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee, in particular Decisions **39 COM 7B.54**, **41 COM 7B.83** and **43 COM 7B.50**, **and** in line with the reporting requirements under the World Heritage Convention;
5. Requests the State Party to submit as a priority the revised Management Plan Framework to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies and to expedite completion and implementation of the Management Plan; and also urges the State Party to continue its efforts to provide sufficient resources to the property to ensure regular maintenance in the long term, including vegetation control, fire prevention and the safeguarding of the mosaics, based on successful practices established through the Baalbek and Tyre Archaeological Project;
6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to implement the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, with particular attention to the following:
  - a) *Establish a comprehensive management strategy for the property that covers all aspects of documentation, conservation and monitoring, summarizing the knowledge on techniques and procedures in a manual, with an updated Action Plan, as a core component of the future Management Plan for the property, including:*
    - (i) *Approaches to improving current maintenance practices concerning vegetation, drainage and sewage control through appropriate preventive measures,*
    - (ii) *Principles of minimal interventions in the conservation of mosaics and structures as lessons learnt from the pilot projects,*
    - (iii) *A monitoring protocol to be available for scientific conservation research and to enable evaluation of the efficacy of conservation measures,*
    - (iv) *A comprehensive presentation strategy for the property to reflect the actual understanding of its values as reflected in the various architectonic technologies and funerary practices of past generations, as well as conservation challenges,*
  - b) *Consider integrating the Management Plan with regional and urban development and traffic-mobility plans to manage the development pressures in the long term;*
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to revise the proposed boundary of the property, identify a buffer zone and develop regulations and procedures for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in accordance with Decision **37 COM 8B.45**, and to submit a Minor Boundary Modification, in line with Paragraphs 107, 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;
8. Further reiterates its request to the State Party to establish a maritime protection zone around the seashores of Tyre;
9. Reiterates furthermore its request to initiate an in-depth study of traffic and the urban road network, and to submit this study to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies, and reminds the State Party of its obligations to submit, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, details for proposed road and infrastructure projects at the property, including Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA)

for the Coastal Highway and other planned major infrastructure projects, conducted in accordance with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties;

10. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, a progress report and by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

### 133. Ksar of Ait-Ben-Haddou (Morocco) (C 444)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2001-2007)

Total amount approved: USD 52,333

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

From August 2000 to August 2003: 3 missions in the framework of the Safeguarding and Rehabilitation project; September 2003: Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2003: World Heritage Centre mission; October 2005: WHC mission; April 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2007: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Society's valuing of heritage: Partial abandonment of the property
- Erosion and siltation/deposition: Gully erosion leading to rock falls
- Deliberate destruction of heritage: Increased offences in old *Ksar* and degradation (issue resolved)
- Governance: Delays in the establishment of a technical and administrative structure responsible for the property (issue resolved)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation: Uncontrolled tourism and visitor pressure (issue resolved)
- Flooding: Floods at the end of 2014
- Ground transport infrastructure: Possible impact due to the opening of the bridge connecting the two banks of the Wadi el-Maleh on the property (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan: Lack of an updated Management Plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 23 December 2020, the State Party submitted an intermediate progress report and on 19 March 2021 an updated report on the state of conservation of the property; both reports are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/444/documents> and provide the following information:

- The 2020-2030 management plan was finalized in November 2020 and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;

- The idea put forward in 2008, of creating a special account for conservation, was abandoned in particular due to the diversity of ownership status and land tenure within the property. However, recent local government legislation allowing for the development of local strategies for the protection of heritage resources provides solutions that will be considered in the implementation of the management plan;
- The 2014 floods led to the partial disintegration of the property. Restoration, consolidation and reconstruction works of the passageways and several dwellings have been completed;
- Concerning the requested Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the footbridge, it is recalled that the project received a positive evaluation from ICOMOS before its construction in 2011; its design was considered discrete and adequate. It should be noted that the objectives behind its construction have been met;
- The studies regarding the additional phases of the restoration project for dwellings have been planned and an intervention plan is being drawn up, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for examination by the Advisory Bodies. While the project has been slowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, authorities have maintained ongoing conservation activities, including preventive measures;
- The Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach was integrated into the management plan, and notably a series of workshops requiring technical and financial support from the World Heritage Centre will be organised in 2021 to better understand the concept;
- The property has been regularly monitored by the World Heritage Centre since 2006 due to the worrying state of deterioration. Today, thanks to the combined efforts of stakeholders aware of its conservation, and a positive dynamic of public awareness and problem solving, supported by the implementation of a new management plan elaborated in a participatory manner within a logic of sustainable development, the property as a whole is in a good state of conservation again.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

As recommended, the submitted management plan covers a ten-year period, proposing a vision for the sustainable development and conservation of the property until 2030, and integrates a HUL approach. The World Heritage Centre is available to support the State Party in the organization of training workshops on the HUL approach for site managers.

The ICOMOS evaluation of the 2020-2030 management plan, dated March 2021, underlines that it is the result of a participatory process between the different stakeholders defined around five objectives (conservation, revitalisation, cultural action, communication and promotion, training), and that it constitutes a good basis for work. Nevertheless, it also points out that the plan would benefit from integrating certain elements, notably an assessment of the physical condition of the property, a clarification of the specific management system between the stakeholders and decision-making process, as well as the policies followed for the management and conservation of the property, and finally, detailed action plans with priority timetables and references to the specific persons in charge of activities, and to the budgets and resources associated with each activity and/or project.

The issue of financial resources is all the more crucial after the idea of creating a special conservation account was abandoned due to the difficulties related to the diversity of ownership status and land tenure within the property, as it is not yet clear whether the policy of territorial decentralisation allowing for the development of local strategies for the protection of heritage resources, the renewed interest of investors and other planned activities provide adequate alternative financing solutions for the conservation of the property.

It is noted that in 2009, the footbridge received a positive evaluation from ICOMOS prior to its construction, provided by the State Party in its report, and that the objectives related to its construction are achieved, namely an increase in the number of resident inhabitants within the property, easy access for tourists and for the installation of basic infrastructure for the community, the creation of income-generating activities for the populations and the opening up of the surrounding villages in case the Wadi El Maleh overflows.

It is also noted that the documents concerning the additional phases of the project for the restoration of the dwellings are being finalised, and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre prior to the works, in accordance with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for examination by the Advisory Bodies.

It is recommended to acknowledge the important work that has been carried out since 2006 to improve the conservation of the property and mitigate the factors affecting its Outstanding Universal Value, including the establishment of tools to ensure its proper management. It would nevertheless be appropriate to request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, and the progress made in that regard.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.133**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.51**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Notes that the submitted 2020-2030 management plan meets the requests previously expressed by the Committee by covering a longer period than initially foreseen and by integrating the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach as an additional tool for the sustainable management of the property, and provides a good basis for further work, and encourages the State Party to request the World Heritage Centre to provide technical support for the planned workshops in order to train and build the capacity of the participants in the management of the site with tools and guidance for the implementation of the HUL approach;*
4. *Also notes that the idea to create a special account for conservation has been abandoned due to the difficulties related to the diversity of ownership status and land tenure within the property;*
5. *Further notes that the footbridge received a positive evaluation from ICOMOS prior to its construction, and that the objectives of its construction are met, namely an increase in the number of residents living within the property, ease of access for tourists and for the installation of basic infrastructure for the community, the creation of income-generating activities for the population, and the opening up of the surrounding villages in the event the Wadi el-Maleh overflows;*
6. *Finally notes that the documents concerning the additional phases of the restoration project of the dwellings are being finalised, and requests the State Party to submit them to the World Heritage Centre prior to the start of the works, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for examination by the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Also encourages the State Party to complete the 2020-2030 management plan to:*
  - a) *Integrate an assessment of the physical condition of the property,*
  - b) *Clarify the specific management system between the stakeholders and decision making process,*
  - c) *Highlight the policies used for the management and conservation of the property,*
  - d) *Detail the action plans, assess the priorities of the timetable, refer to those responsible for each activity and to the budgets and resources associated with each activity and/or project, and notably specify whether the policy of territorial decentralisation allowing the development of local strategies for the protection of heritage resources and the renewed interest of investors and other planned activities provide adequate alternative financing solutions for the conservation of the property;*



8. *Recognizing the significant efforts made since 2006 to improve the conservation of the property and mitigate the factors affecting its Outstanding Universal Value, in particular the implementation of tools to ensure its proper management, nevertheless also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property.*

**134. Rabat, Modern Capital and Historic City: a Shared Heritage (Morocco) (C 1401)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**135. Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) (C 1433)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**136. Historic Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah (Saudi Arabia) (C 1361)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Detailed Conservation Strategy not finalized
- High rate of decay of the historic houses
- Housing
- Management systems/ management plan: Management system not in place
- Need for a risk management and prevention plan
- Projects and development work with the potential to impact the authenticity of the property

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1361/documents>. It reports the following activities:

- A new Ministry of Culture has been established with 11 new sub-commissions, of which the Heritage Commission covers all aspects of cultural heritage;
- The Council of Ministers approved the establishment of the Jeddah Historic District (JHD) with a programme aimed at rehabilitating and developing the property. JHD is composed of five departments, overseeing the management and implementation of activities;
- Progress has been made in the development of the new GIS database for the property and buffer zone, which includes new layers of information;
- JHD is integrating a holistic approach in management, knowledge, planning, assessment, regulatory systems and community engagement for the property, and for which the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape will be utilized;
- Actions are foreseen along three stages: knowledge of the place; planning and defining strategies; and monitoring the evolution of the achieved results. Progress has been made in implementing the first and second stages;
- Several actions have been developed with the aim of creating a balance between conservation and development. Interventions have focused on urban paths, regulations for shopfronts, improved coordination and new bidding regulations;
- The Masterplan that is being established encompasses three strategic phases. Phase 1 (Plan) focuses on 6 priority zones for core regeneration projects; Phase 2 (Regeneration Plan) involves 11 priority sites to tackle the comprehensive regeneration of Historic Jeddah; and Phase 3 (Regeneration of Al-Balad), tackles the wider regeneration of Al-Balad;
- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) will be launched to evaluate the potential impact of the Masterplan on the property. Individual projects will be screened to identify if HIA is necessary;
- Prevention and mitigation measures are in place to prevent fire hazards;
- Extracts of several studies have been submitted, including: Heritage Documentation, Assessment and Strategy, Al Balad Regeneration and Development Plan (Part 1. Masterplan); Public Realm Strategy and Design Manual; Al Balad Design Guidelines for Non Heritage Buildings; Al Balad Jeddah Old Town; Restoration Manual for Historical Buildings in Historical Jeddah; and Strategic Assessment - Security. Information on examples of restoration studies and illustrations of several completed projects have been provided.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has made headway at the institutional level through the creation of the Ministry of Culture, and more specifically, in relation to the establishment of the Jeddah Historic District (JHD). It is important that the continued coordination between entities is ensured for effective protection of the property.

Important progress has been made with regards to the GIS database of Historic Jeddah, which now encompasses several layers of information, with various classifications, such as condition, typologies, and spatial and functional characteristics. It is important that all attributes relating to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are included within the database.

The implementation of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape is considered relevant for the integration of heritage with urban development, economy, environment and socio-cultural aspects within the framework of the Masterplan of urban regeneration of Historic Jeddah. Several studies and plans have been launched, regulatory systems have been put in place, and efforts are being made to ensure community engagement.

While the State Party did not submit a comprehensive conservation strategy as requested by the Committee, it has provided extracts of several documents demonstrating ongoing work and studies related to the preparation of a Masterplan for the historic city, restoration and design guidelines, and

development strategies, among others. The preparation of such a comprehensive Masterplan with supporting documents and guidelines demonstrate the efforts that are currently being undertaken by the State Party, which is very welcomed. In this regard, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit the complete versions of these documents, in addition to a conservation strategy, design guidelines and restoration manual addressing heritage conservation, for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies.

The State Party has identified several projects for urgent intervention at vulnerable buildings, and information on selected conservation projects was shared. The State Party intends to conduct pilot projects in order to demonstrate best practices in emergency conservation, and, an adaptive reuse programme is in place for historical buildings. The extracts of the documentation and assessment studies for individual conservation projects reflect the in-depth scientific analysis that is being undertaken, which is commendable. In this context, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit full technical information on these projects, as well as plans for new constructions, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The strategic and transversal HIA, which is being prepared by the State Party for the Masterplan, is necessary to assess the impact of the planned activities within the property. In this regard, it is to be noted that an HIA would be required for all developments. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to prepare all essential HIA studies in accordance with ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage properties and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before the implementation of any major irreversible interventions, which could impact the OUV of the property.

The State Party has undertaken mitigation measures to prevent fire hazards since 2018. Yet, a risk management and prevention plan for the property has not been prepared. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to formalise such a plan to reduce the impact of negative risks resulting from accidents or other force majeure in the future.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.136**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 42 COM 7B.58, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),*
3. *Commends the State Party for continuing to develop the database for the property to encompass additional layers, and encourages it to pursue its efforts in this regard to ensure that all attributes relating to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are included within this database;*
4. *Takes note of the establishment of the Jeddah Historic District (JHD) programme, and welcomes the substantial efforts of the State Party in undertaking the preparation of a number of strategic documents and plans, including a Masterplan, in addition to implementing conservation and rehabilitation projects;*
5. *Acknowledges the State Party's efforts in the implementation of the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach to the management and urban regeneration of the property and also encourages it to continue sharing information with the World Heritage Centre in that regard;*
6. *Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, the complete version of the documents provided in the report, particularly:*
  - a) *The Regeneration and Development Plan (Masterplan),*

- b) *Complete technical information on conservation/restoration projects,*
  - c) *The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) framework for the Masterplan,*
  - d) *The complete integrated conservation strategy, design guidelines, and restoration manual,*
  - e) *The risk management and prevention plan for the property;*
7. *Reminds the State Party of the need to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the OUV of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

### **137. Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia (Saudi Arabia) (C 1472)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (i)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1472/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1472/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Interpretative and visitation facilities: Lack of visitor infrastructures and of a tourism management strategy (issue resolved)
- Localised utilities: Failure of some of the masking work due to neglect and intentional damage
- Management systems/ management plan
- Need to extend the buffer zone of the Jabal Umm Sinman component (issue resolved)
- Visual impact of the rain water diversionary dam near Jubbah and of the water tower on the eastern side of Jabal Umm Sinman
- Water infrastructure
- Awareness programme for local residents needed

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1472/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1472/documents/>. It presents progress in addressing a number of conservation issues identified by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The State Party, after establishing the status of ownership and claims, has increased the area of the buffer zone;
- The masking works, completed in 2015 and compromised in 2017, have been re-planned, with two artesian water wells outside the buffer zone to supply water to the project. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the stone masking of concrete walls and replanting has been deferred until the 2021 planting season;
- Updated information has been provided on visitor infrastructure, including road signage and local signage that will increase local recognition of the property, rest areas and accommodation for visitors, visitor paths, viewing stairways and platforms, and shade structures, all designed for reversibility when required. The visitor centre at Jubbah has been refurbished to display archaeological materials and site orientation information;
- Updated information has been provided on Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) requirements for development in relation to the World Heritage property, its buffer zones and wider setting. Site monitoring and security has been enhanced by the installation of a CCTV monitoring system linked to a control center in the visitor center. A drone monitoring system is also being developed;
- The State Party indicates changes to the administrative system for the property, with the creation of a new Ministry of Culture and a Heritage Commission, now separated from the Ministry of Tourism. The Heritage Commission is one of eleven sub-commissions covering all aspects of cultural heritage.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has acted on the request of the Committee (**41 COM 7B.85**) to provide clarification on the formalization of an extended buffer zone for one component of the property – Jabal Umm Sinman. The State Party, after establishing the status of ownership and claims, has increased the area of the buffer zone, but by less than the 1.0-1.5 km extension previously recommended by the Committee, to ensure that there is no visual impact on the integrity of the property. Nevertheless, it is recommended that the State Party considers the recommended extension of the Buffer Zone and informs the Committee of any impediments to that extension, and in the meantime ensures that any planned project or facility in the setting will not have a visual impact on the integrity of the property.

The State Party has addressed the failure of the recent masking works by utilizing two artesian water wells outside the buffer zone to supply water to the project. The stone work and replanting required to mask concrete walls will be undertaken in the 2021 planting season.

A range of visitor and security and monitoring infrastructure has been installed that appears to address concerns previously raised by the Committee.

The provision of a timeframe for the implementation of a variety of actions is a useful and welcomed submission, as is the iteration of HIA requirements.

It is noted that a new Ministry for Culture, with eleven sub-commissions (of which the Heritage Commission is one) and a separate Tourism Ministry have been established. It is important that the continued coordination between the new entities is ensured to achieve effective protection of the property.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.137**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,

2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.53**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Commends the State Party on the resolution of the masking works issue due to be implemented in 2021, and on the continued development of visitor infrastructure and monitoring systems;
4. Acknowledges the proposed expansion of the buffer zone of the Jabal Umm Sinman component, but reiterates its previous recommendation that the buffer zone boundary be increased by 1.0 to 1.5 kilometers to the west and south of the component, in order to prevent any visual impact on the integrity of the property, and that any impediments to such action be indicated;
5. Reminds the State Party to submit the boundary modification proposal in accordance with Paragraph 164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Requests the submission of all plans, projects and strategies to be undertaken within the property, in particular project proposals and associated Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for the further development of visitor and monitoring infrastructure, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

### **138. Medina of Sousse (Tunisia) (C 498bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

N/A

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 15 March 2021, the World Heritage Centre informed the State Party that the property would be subject to a report on its state of conservation to be presented at the extended 44th session of the Committee, due to concerns about the conservation of the property. On 8 April 2021, the State Party

submitted a report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/498/documents/>, providing the following information:

- Several actors are involved in the management of the property, including the National Heritage Institute (INP), the Agency for the Heritage Valorisation and Cultural Promotion (AMVPPC), the Municipality of the City of Sousse, the Agency for Urban Rehabilitation and Renovation (ARRU), the Association for the Safeguarding of the Medina of Sousse (ASM) and civil society;
- The urban development plan of the City of Sousse defines the traditional urban fabric, and sets out regulations for construction and development within the property and its buffer zone;
- Potential threats have been identified in relation to the absence of a safeguarding and valorisation plan (PSMV), lack of coordination, absence of a consultation framework concerning interventions, urban pressure and densification, social and economic factors, visual impact on the integrity of the property, loss of traditional knowledge, and alteration of building elements and materials;
- The INP carries out regular surveys and inspections to ensure the protection of monuments and traditional fabric. Building permits are reviewed and granted on a case by case basis and upon approval of three bodies. The number of building violations increased after the 2011 revolution, but these are being treated;
- Restoration projects were carried out between 2006 and 2008 by the INP on the Great Mosque, the Ribat, the Kasbah and the ramparts. Restoration of zawiyas were also undertaken between 2013 and 2017. Other planned projects include Sidi Ali Ammar Mosque and the synagogue on rue de France;
- A pilot project for the rehabilitation of façades was carried out by ARRU, in collaboration with INP, ASM, and the municipality, with funding support from the French Development Agency (AFD);
- The Archaeological Museum of Sousse has been renovated and opened in 2012, and tourist itineraries have been established;
- Information was provided about the protection and valorisation plan (PSMV), currently under preparation;
- The Islamic World Heritage Committee of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) registered the synagogue of Sousse as a heritage site during its Extraordinary Meeting in December 2019.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The management of the property is governed by the urban development plan of the City of Sousse. Land use, urban development, and procedures for building permits are being regulated. Many buildings within the property have been classified as historical monuments, and several restoration projects have been undertaken at the Great Mosque, Kasbah, ramparts and other buildings, in addition to actions related to awareness raising and tourism promotion. Despite these efforts, the State Party has reported on increased violations since 2011, which are nevertheless being treated.

The efforts undertaken by the State Party and its agencies are acknowledged. However, there are potential threats in relation to urban pressure and densification of the historic urban fabric, an increase of land speculation, changes in vocation of dwellings, among other factors. Many of the inhabitants have relocated and there is loss of traditional knowledge. Potential visual impact on the integrity of the property has also been reported. The State Party has launched urban studies for the elaboration of the safeguarding and valorisation plan (PSMV) which would become a reference document for the protection, management and development of the property. It is recommended to pursue the finalization and adoption of the PSMV as a matter of priority, in order to allow for its implementation. This would ensure the adequate conservation and management of the property, including tourism management, and contribute to effective coordination among stakeholders. It is also recommended for the State Party to seek mechanisms and opportunities to integrate the PSMV into the urban development plan of the City of Sousse, and to address the management and conservation of the property in an integrated and coordinated manner, and in line with 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL). The Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property to advise and discuss with the relevant authorities the steps to define a comprehensive framework, which is important to support the effective implementation of the PSMV, and the execution of actions to improve the state of conservation of the

property, including the implementation of regulations to mitigate urban development pressure in the buffer zone.

It is also recommended that the Committee remind the State Party to submit information on any major project, to the World Heritage Centre for examination by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are made, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.138**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Acknowledges the State Party's efforts in the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the property;*
3. *Notes with concern the potential threats posed to the property due to the absence of a safeguarding and valorisation plan (PSMV) and coordination, absence of a consultation framework concerning interventions, urban pressure and densification, social and economic factors, visual impact on the integrity of the property, loss of traditional knowledge, and alteration of building elements and materials;*
4. *Requests the State Party to finalise, adopt and implement the PSMV in order to ensure the conservation and management of the property, including tourism management, and coordination among stakeholders;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to seek mechanisms and opportunities to integrate the PSMV into the urban development plan of the City of Sousse to address the management and conservation of the property in an integrated and coordinated manner, and in line with the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission to the property, as soon as conditions allow, to provide advice and discuss with all relevant authorities and stakeholders the steps to define a comprehensive framework to redress conservation and management issues and ensure the sustenance of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property;*
7. *Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on major projects to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for examination by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are made;*
8. *Further Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*



## ASIA-PACIFIC

### 139. Angkor (Cambodia) (C 668)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 140. Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk, Archaeological Site of Ancient Ishanapura (Cambodia) (C 1532)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2017

Criteria (ii)(iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1532/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2014)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1532/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/ management plan (Need to clarify the attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value with regard to the boundaries of the temples zone and the buffer zone; Need to augment the Conservation Plan, to refine the Management Plan and to complement the monitoring program)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation (Need to address a number of tourism-related issues: revise the Tourism Management Plan, prepare a visitor code of conduct, prepare an interpretation and presentation plan for the Kampon Thom Museum, improve signage, improve the visitor display and interpretation information at the Sambor Prei Kuk Visitor Centre, etc.)
- Illegal activities (Need to continue implementing careful looting control)
- Other factors (Risk of collapse of some temples; Need to avoid herbicides in fighting weeds and replace them by masonry- and environment-friendly methods)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1532/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1532/documents/> and presents progress with a number of conservation issues highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- Activities over the past two years have focused primarily on site maintenance, conservation, restoration and archaeological investigations as well as on improvements of site interpretation and capacity building;

- The First Aid Conservation Project of Decorative Wall and Flying Palace Carvings was completed in 2020, and the preservation, safeguarding and monitoring project is in progress;
- At Prasat Yeay Poan, the octagonal tower structures and the Inner Eastern and Western Gates have been stabilised and tree roots removed, a walkway for tourism access and site protection has been constructed, making the site accessible to visitors;
- Vegetation has been regularly removed from three towers with intrusive tree roots;
- Protection fences have been installed at the main temple complexes, and the boundary of the property has been marked by posts;
- Archaeological investigations have included ground surveys and the use of aerial orthophotos and LiDAR, and a list of newly identified archaeological sites has been provided;
- Training for students and members of the local community has taken place to enable their participation in the conservation programmes;
- The Conservation Manual for Sambor Prei Kuk is in draft form and will be finalised soon to support the implementation of the management system;
- To date, the recommended work on risk management has focused on the monitoring of structures, the management of vegetation, the construction of a fire 'trail' to assist with emergency responses and protection from vandalism;
- Visitor surveys are conducted every two years, most recently in 2019, and visitor statistics have been collected to assist with the ongoing assessment of the carrying capacity of temple zones and other areas, including data collected on hourly visitor levels, group sizes, local Khmer and international visitor numbers, and seasonal patterns;
- The Visitor Code of Conduct has been widely disseminated, and various improvements to visitor facilities are summarised in the report;
- A review of parking areas has been conducted, and plans for an 'all-weather' road and new parking areas are being developed;
- The Heritage Police Unit was established in 2019 to assist with anti-looting measures;
- The longer-term possibility of extending the property boundaries has not yet been fully explored, although some initiatives have been launched which will indirectly assist this work;
- The State Party mentions that a bypass road has been constructed to ensure that heavy truck traffic no longer passes near the property.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The property is now supported by a new International Coordinating Committee mechanism, which is an extension to the International Coordination Committee for Angkor (ICC-Angkor), and thus regularly benefits from the professional insights of its expertise.

The State Party has made commendable progress towards achieving the urgent conservation priorities for this property, particularly in relation to stabilisation works for the octagonal towers of Prasat Yeay Poan, vegetation management, site interpretation and archaeological investigations over a number of major monuments of the property and its territorial configuration. Within the inscribed property and its buffer zones, 25 new sites have been identified. All these activities help document the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, but more work is required to fully articulate the attributes of the property and should include all aspects that convey its OUV, such as the territorial configuration, standing structures and ruins, decorative elements and inscriptions, archaeological sites and evidence, hydraulic elements, causeways, etc. Improvements to the exhibition of the property are considered a challenge.

The Committee may wish to welcome the State Party's report that the recommended Conservation Manual is under constant improvement, including new elements and lessons learnt, and will be annexed to the Management Plan, and that the Visitor Code of Conduct (based on the example of Angkor) has been completed and disseminated. Experimental activities have been conducted to address some aspects of the recommended refinement of the Management Plan through the development of a Risk Response Plan, e.g. for built heritage, natural elements and vandalism. However, the Management Plan needs to be compiled with concrete and strategic guidelines for risk management by following the outline

provided in the resource manual *Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage* and the guidance materials made available by the Advisory Bodies. The State Party's report indicates that steps have been taken towards implementing the recommended monitoring system, notably by ensuring regular reporting on the conservation and restoration works, but there is insufficient information on items such as risk data, settlement patterns and ancient hydraulic structures. The Management Plan needs to contain guidelines for monitoring measures targeting these components (e.g. built aspects including ancient civil engineering, natural environment and visitors).

Progress is continuing in relation to the Committee's recommendations on elements of the management system, such as the assessment of the property's carrying capacity. The State Party notes that the property is yet to become an active tourism hub, and that tourism facilities and infrastructure are limited, although the number of tourists is expected to increase at rate of around 10% a year. The aim to sustainably develop tourism at the property is thus supported, underscoring the importance of forward-thinking planning.

Longer-term possibilities to extend the property boundaries understandably await the completion of more urgent tasks. In the meantime, it is recommended that the Committee support the priorities established by the State Party to fully document the property, consolidate all the components of the management system, develop sustainable tourism planning and infrastructure, and implement the most urgent and ongoing conservation programmes.

Capacity-building programmes for staff, students and local communities involved in site management and conservation work are welcomed and should be further encouraged. Finally, the Committee may also wish to encourage the State Party to improve the conditions of artefacts discovered at the property and gradually improve their interpretation and exhibition for educational and outreach purposes.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.140**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 8B.15** and **43 COM 7B.56**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with satisfaction that the property now has its own International Coordinating Committee as an extension of the International Coordination Committee for Angkor (ICC-Angkor) and benefits from regular reviews within this framework and from long-standing expertise;*
4. *Commends the State Party for the progress made in implementing the Committee's previous recommendations, and requests the State Party to continue to its progress by:*
  - a) *Consolidating the documentation of the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, ensuring that the Statement of the OUV, documentation, mapping and condition assessments are incorporated in the management system,*
  - b) *Finalising the draft Conservation Manual for Sambor Prei Kuk and regularly updating it with new elements and lessons learnt to support the implementation of urgent and long-term conservation work,*
  - c) *Further refining the Management Plan through the development of a systematic Risk Response and other necessary management components, including measures to monitor built structures, the natural environment and visitors at the property, and by continuing to identify adequate resources for all planned actions,*
  - d) *Continuing to assess the carrying capacity of each of the temple zones, incorporating the outcomes into tourism planning and revising the Tourism Management Plan, including actions, timeframes and resources for the property,*

- e) *Continuing to implement anti-looting measures,*
  - f) *Ensuring the effectiveness of the monitoring system through regular reporting on the conservation and restoration works, risk data, settlement patterns, ancient hydraulic structures, visitor satisfaction, community involvement, and broader environmental indicators,*
  - g) *Considering the long-term possibility of extending the property's boundaries, once the inscribed area has been fully documented and assessed,*
  - h) *Continuing to develop capacity-building programmes for a variety of audiences;*
5. *Encourages the State Party to improve the conditions of artefacts discovered at the property and gradually improve their interpretation and exhibition for educational and outreach purposes;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

#### **141. Historic Centre of Macao (China) (C 1110)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ii)(iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

##### Previous monitoring missions

January 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing (Including high-rise buildings; Potential visual impact of new developments)
- Land conversion (Land reclamation)
- Management systems / Management Plan (Inadequacy of the current management systems; Lack of Management Plan)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/>

##### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1110/documents/>, in which the following activities are reported:

- The Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region (Macao SAR) has completed the project "Master Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2020-2040)" to protect cultural

heritage and maintain the visual corridors and protection zones of the property and the entire city of Macao, including the New Urban Zones. Progress has been made with the Protection and Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Macao, which is undergoing revision and required legislative processes before submission to the World Heritage Centre. Macao has well-developed processes for the conduct of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) using two different approaches, depending on the circumstances of the project, with a focus on the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and on avoiding or mitigating other potential adverse impacts;

- The protection of the visual corridors linked to the Guia Lighthouse is acknowledged as important, and a cautious approach is applied to nearby construction projects. The HIA for the unfinished building project at 18-20 Calçada de Gaio, close to the Guia Lighthouse, concluded that completing the construction project at its current height is a reasonable technical solution that balances heritage protection and urban development. All new construction projects developed around Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues comply with height limits set in the 2008 Order of the Chief Executive to protect the visual corridors linked to the Guia Lighthouse and maintain the surrounding landscape setting;
- An urban design plan has been initiated for the New Urban Zone A, and a transit line will be developed underground and under the sea to avoid impacts on the surrounding landscape setting. The State Party is committed to liaising with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the planning and construction phases of the New Urban Zones and relevant development proposals;
- Public education about heritage protection and increased public awareness of heritage values have been pro-actively addressed through promotional activities, which inspire and encourage the active role of the general public and government organizations in conserving and celebrating the heritage values of the property.

Since the 43rd session of the Committee (Baku, 2019), the World Heritage Centre has received a series of third-party information, notably on the construction of high-rise buildings in the vicinity of the property, which were transmitted to the State Party for comments. The State Party provided a response through a letter dated 29 May 2020, including an HIA for the unfinished building located at 18-20 Calçada de Gaio. A Technical Review provided by ICOMOS was transmitted to the State Party on 26 November 2020.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The programme of public education initiatives undertaken to increase public awareness and to encourage conservation and celebration of the heritage values of the property is welcome. Progress has been reported with the Master Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region and with the Protection and Management Plan for the property, but the extended timeframe to complete the necessary regulatory instruments and processes is concerning, given the role of the Management Plan in conserving the OUV of the property. Nevertheless, it remains important that the Management Plan is submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as possible and prior to its adoption and implementation. The implementation of HIA processes will further contribute to the ongoing conservation of the property.

ICOMOS provided advice on the unfinished high-rise building project at 18-20 Calçada de Gaio and the construction of high-rise buildings on Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues in its November 2020 technical review. The HIA for the unfinished high-rise building at 18-20 Calçada de Gaio reasonably concluded that reducing the original height of the approved design and finishing the project with the current built height option would not fundamentally affect the OUV of the property, even though there will be some effects on visual corridors between the Mount Fortress and Guia Fortress and Lighthouse. However, it is advised that the design of the upper floors of this building should be revised to be more transparent and less bulky to lessen the visual impact.

With respect to the high-rise buildings on Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues, it is recommended that a detailed urban design and conservation planning study be undertaken for the length of the Avenida, taking into account existing site conditions, legal and planning constraints and HIA requirements. A reduction of the present maximum height limit along the Avenida (as determined in 2008) should be considered and a moratorium placed on new construction approvals until such a time the outcomes from the study have been formally adopted.

Finally, it is recommended that the emerging urban design plan for the New Urban Zones be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as part of the State Party's commitment to liaise with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the planning and construction phases of the New Urban Zones and relevant development proposals, including the underground/undersea transit line.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.141**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.57**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the education and awareness-raising initiatives pursued by the State Party regarding the history of the property and its encouragement of the conservation and celebration of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and other heritage values;
4. Takes note of further progress made towards the finalisation of the comprehensive Protection and Management Plan for the property and the development of the Master Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2020-2040), which will assist with the integration of cultural heritage protection into urban planning and development, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible and prior to its adoption and implementation;
5. Reiterates its concern that potential new developments may impact adversely on the OUV of the property, and therefore also welcomes the advice from the State Party about the ongoing role of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) in conserving the OUV of the property, and encourages the State Party to ensure that potential impacts of new developments, including visual impacts, continue to be evaluated through the preparation of HIAs that comply with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties;
6. Also notes that the unfinished high-rise building at 18-20 Calçada de Gaio will be completed to its existing height, but requests that the design of the upper floors of this building be revised to be more transparent and less bulky to lessen their visual impact, and also requests the State Party to undertake a detailed urban design and conservation planning study for the length of the Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues, taking into account existing site conditions, legal and planning constraints, HIA requirements, and to consider a potential reduction of the current maximum height limit and a moratorium on the approval of new constructions until the outcomes of this study have been formally adopted;
7. Also reiterates its request to the State Party to liaise with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies regarding the aforementioned Master Plan and major projects in the New Urban Zones, such as the underground/undersea transit line, and to follow the recommendations of the Management Plan to ensure that any development project supports rather than endangers the property and its OUV;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 142. Borobudur Temple Compounds (Indonesia) (C 592)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(ii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/592/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1998 to 1999)

Total amount approved: USD 5,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/592/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 7,000,000 under the UNESCO International Safeguarding Campaign for Borobudur (1972-1983); USD 35,000 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to provide technical support for the enhancement of the management effectiveness (2005-2006); close to USD 2,000,000 between 2011 and 2020 in the framework of the Emergency safeguarding activities for the Borobudur Temple Compounds implemented by UNESCO Office in Jakarta with funding support from the Federal Republic of Germany and Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and other partners.

### Previous monitoring missions

April 2003 and February 2006: joint WHC/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; September 2007 and October 2008: UNESCO expert missions.

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ineffectual legal and institutional framework for the management and protection of the property (issue resolved)
- Impacts on the stone of Borobudur Temple from the use of epoxy resin, steam cleaning and water repellants (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/592/>

### Current conservation issues

On 8 April 2020, the World Heritage Centre requested that the State Party of Indonesia clarify information provided by a third party about the proposed construction of tourism facilities within and around the property. On 23 October 2020, following further receipt of third-party information indicating that construction works for a Visitor Concourse had commenced, the World Heritage Centre requested again the State Party to submit a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and supporting documents, in conformity with Paragraphs 118bis and 174 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The State Party advised by letter dated 23 October 2020 that an expert team would prepare an HIA on the projects, an Integrated Tourism Management Plan of Borobudur-Yogyakarta-Prambanan (ITMP BYP), and a Borobudur Visitor Management Plan (BVMP). On 10 December 2020, the World Heritage Centre received the HIA (executive summary only), a Concept and Development Program, and a Design Plan Borobudur.

On 9 March 2021, the World Heritage Centre provided the State Party with a preliminary ICOMOS Technical Review of the submitted documents and requested the State Party to submit a report on the state of conservation of the property. The Centre reiterated its request to halt the projects, as previously expressed in letters dated 23 October, 4 November 2020 and 12 January 2021, and during an online meeting with the State Party on 5 November 2020.

On 5 and 9 April 2021, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report along with a Management Plan for Borobudur Temple Compounds (MP), the full HIA report, a Detailed Engineering Design of the projects, and Comments from the Borobudur Conservation Office (BCO). The report is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/document/186919> and provides the following information:

- In 2019, Borobudur region was designated as one of five Super Priority Destinations in Indonesia, and subsequently a development plan for the region was devised, comprising the following development components: 1) Construction of Culture District Identity Gates; 2) Construction of Culture Axis Pathways between Mendut–Pawon–Borobudur temples; 3) Development of Borobudur Concourse Area; and 4) Relocation of the Borobudur Commercial and Parking Area;
- The HIA indicates that these projects may impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, especially as they affect the property's setting and the landscapes surrounding each component, the areas between them (Identity Gates, Axis Pathways, and Commercial and Parking Area), and the property itself (Concourse Area);
- The BCO comments indicate that the design of the proposed projects is not based on the Integrated Tourism Management Plan (ITMP BYP), and express concerns about negative impacts on the OUV of the property;
- The Management Plan for the property identifies other issues with the conservation and management of the property: a lack of harmonization and overlap between inconsistent regulations; unfair income redistribution; the absence of an integrated management body responsible for the property and its surroundings as a whole; lack of ownership and involvement of local communities as stakeholders in conservation and management.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

It is of serious concern that the property and its surrounding area have been subject to extensive tourism development, which has already commenced, yet no report was provided by the State Party until the receipt of third-party information. The development projects proposed within and in the vicinity of the property could potentially have the negative impacts on its OUV, in particular on the setting and surrounding landscapes, as indicated in the HIA and the BCO comments. Completion of the projects would further increase visitation, although the current level is already beyond the ideal carrying capacity identified in the MP. There is no comprehensive tourism management plan defining a general policy for tourism development in the region, consistent with the OUV of the property, nor minimum standards for individual projects. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to submit the ITMP BYP and BVMP as an overarching framework for tourism development in the Borobudur region.

The Committee should also request the State Party to revise the project and the HIA in accordance with the preliminary ICOMOS Technical Review. The revised HIA should include identified missing information, including the composition and assignment of the HIA consultants, the methodology used for the study, and an analysis of the impact of the construction process and future use of the proposed new structures. The State Party should be urged to suspend all development projects within and around the property until the ITMP BYP and BVMP, the revised projects, the updated HIA and the MP are submitted, reviewed by ICOMOS, revised if necessary and adopted. This process should allow for the possibility that one or more of the proposed projects may not proceed at all, owing to potential impacts on the OUV of the property.

Jurisdiction over the property management is divided between different entities (property: BCO under the Ministry of Education and Culture; buffer zone: PT Taman Wisata Candi Borobudur Prambanan and Ratu Bako under the Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises; outside the buffer zone: Regional Government of Magelang Regency under the Ministry of Home Affairs). This complex management arrangement results in a lack of communication and inequality between authorities regarding conservation resources, relative to benefits from development. Community representatives are not sufficiently involved, and benefits from tourism have not been shared with the community at large. The Committee should request the State Party to establish an integrated management body covering whole of the Borobudur National Strategic Area, in line with the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2010. The management body should include relevant stakeholders from the national and regional governments, private sector partners and local communities. The Ministry of Education and Culture and BCO should take a leading role in developing and operating the management body.

Law Number 11 of 2010 outlines provisions for the preparation of HIAs, but there is no standardized procedure nor technical guidelines. The Committee should encourage the State Party to develop specific HIA mechanisms to be applied to development or restoration projects within and around the property, in compliance with the 2011 *ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties*. The Committee should remind the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of proposals that may impact the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and



to submit HIAs and associated documents for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.142**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Notes with concern that development projects for tourism facilities are planned and that some works are reportedly in progress within and around the property, but welcomes the efforts made by the State Party to develop a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed projects and a Management Plan (MP) for the property;
3. Requests the State Party to submit the Integrated Tourism Management Plan of Borobudur-Yogyakarta-Prambanan (ITMP BYP) and the Borobudur Visitor Management Plan (BVMP) to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
4. Also requests the State Party to review the projects and revise the HIA, following the advice of the preliminary ICOMOS technical review, and to resubmit it to the World Heritage Centre for review;
5. Urges the State Party to suspend all development projects within and around the property until the revised HIA, MP, ITMP BYP and BVMP have been reviewed by ICOMOS, noting the possibility that one or more of the proposed projects may not proceed at all, owing to potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
6. Encourages the State Party to engage in phased dialogue and consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies on further assessments of these projects and the development of the Management Plan through capacity-building assistance, virtually or in person as the situation allows, as the MP will define how the property and its setting develop in future;
7. Further requests the State Party to establish an integrated management body covering whole of the Borobudur National Strategic Area, based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2010, in which a leading role shall be played by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Borobudur Conservation Office (BCO);
8. Also encourages the State Party to develop specific HIA mechanisms for development or restoration projects planned within and around the property, in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties;
9. Reminds the State Party that it is invited to inform the World Heritage Centre of any project that may have an impact on the OUV of the property, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and to submit HIAs and associated documents for review by the Advisory Bodies before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

### 143. Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia) (C 1194rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2012

Criteria (ii)(iii)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2001)

Total amount approved: USD 30,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 20,000 from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust provided for a preparatory assistance to the nomination process (2001).

#### Previous monitoring missions

January 2015: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge systems (Vulnerability of the *Subak* system)
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (Lack of support for traditional farming systems and of benefits that would allow farmers to stay on the land)
- Land Conversion (Protection of the setting of the landscape to protect the water source that underpins the *Subak* system)
- Housing (Development pressures)
- Governance, Management systems/management plans (Lack of functioning governance system to implement the Management Plan, Absence of a strategic tourism plan)
- Society's valuing of heritage

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1194/documents/> and presents progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- In response to Decision **43 COM 7B.63**, the State Party indicated its current priorities;
- Continued measures to improve the sustainability of the *subaks* have been implemented by Bali Province and the Tabanan and Gianyar Regencies, including financial assistance, tax relief, repair and maintenance of temple buildings and irrigation canals, provision of equipment and farming supplies, support for ceremonies, educational scholarships for farming families, and sustainable energy initiatives;
- The State Party has identified coordination across sectors and regions as a priority. Progress has been made at the national level by the Coordination Team within the Coordination Ministry for Human Development and Culture, complemented by a Coordination Forum and the Provincial and Regency offices/agencies for culture. The Bali Provincial Government has established the Customary Community Advancement Office, which is notably tasked with monitoring the effectiveness of *subak* initiatives and the implementation of the Subak Empowerment programme of Bali Province. Village development plans are the responsibility of the assemblies for *subak* members and villagers (*krama subak* and *krama adat*);
- Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) are required by the Cultural Property Law (2010) and the Provisions for the Utilisation of National and World Cultural Property (2013). The Ministry of

Education and Culture is currently preparing technical guidelines for HIAs that will apply to all of Indonesia's cultural World Heritage properties;

- The State Party reports that the necessary processes to achieve the designation of the property as a National Strategic Area are in progress, including consultations with stakeholders on the Draft Presidential Regulation. The National Strategic Area Spatial Plan is being developed through discussions with the relevant ministries of local and regional governments, and the State Party aims to complete this process and submit the draft National Strategic Area Spatial Plan to the Minister of Law and Human Rights by the end of 2021.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party, Bali Province and the Regency governments have continued to make progress towards the implementation of the previous Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2015 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Advisory mission. There are ongoing challenges for this living cultural landscape, and the processes of securing its protection and management require continued efforts by all levels of government along with support for the functioning of the *subaks* and water temples.

The Bali Province and the Tabanan and Gianyar Regencies' efforts to provide a broad suite of financial and practical measures and programmes to support *subak* farmers and enhance the resilience and sustainability of the *subaks* are welcomed. The Bali Province Regional Regulation Number 4 of 2019 concerning Customary Villages in Bali opens income opportunities for Customary Villages to support *subak* activities. Given that village development decisions are taken primarily at the local level, the uses of these new provisions should be closely monitored.

The designation of a National Strategic Area is considered beneficial to strengthen spatial planning for the property and provides an integrated approach to catchment management, the management of natural resources that are essential to the functioning of the *subaks*, and the conservation of cultural heritage. The State Party's indication that the necessary consultations and the drafting of the National Strategic Area Spatial Plan should be completed by the end of 2021 is therefore welcomed, and the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to finalise the process of designating the property as a National Strategic Area as soon as possible.

Given the need for sustainable development and the ongoing pressures of development inside and beyond the boundaries of the inscribed components of the property, the need for effective HIA processes is a matter of continuing concern. The State Party's commitment to making progress in that regard as a matter of priority is welcomed, and the current process to develop technical guidelines is noted. It is encouraged that the State Party develop technical guidelines on HIA in conformity with the *ICOMOS Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for World Heritage cultural properties*. The State Party recalls agreements made in 2018 concerning community-centred decision-making processes for Jatiluwih. While the importance of community-centred processes is supported, continued work at the provincial and national levels is needed to ensure that the potential impacts of new developments across the entire serial property are effectively analysed in terms of the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). It is therefore recommended that the World Heritage Committee welcome the State Party's efforts and encourage the completion of the necessary processes, using the guidance documents provided by ICOMOS and IUCN. It is also essential that HIA information be provided to the World Heritage Centre for new development, including tourism and other commercial development, for review by the Advisory Bodies before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.143**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.63, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*

3. *Commends the State Party for the progress made with the implementation of its previous decisions and encourages continued work to implement effective mechanisms for the management and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
4. *Welcomes in particular the updates provided by the State Party concerning its current priorities for this property and the various financial, cultural and physical measures that are planned and implemented by Bali Province and the Tabanan and Gianyar Regencies to support farming communities and increase the resilience and sustainability of the farming landscape, and requests the State Party to monitor the uses of recent provisions for Customary Villages to access new income opportunities to support subak activities;*
5. *Also welcomes the State Party's indication that the draft National Strategic Area Spatial Plan should be completed by the end of 2021, and also encourages the State Party to finalise the process of designating the property as a National Strategic Area as soon as possible;*
6. *Notes that the State Party is currently developing technical guidelines on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) that will apply to all of Indonesia's cultural World Heritage properties, further encourages the State Party to carry out the work in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidance on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, and also requests the State Party to continue developing specific HIA mechanisms that are linked to the property's management system and can explicitly address the need for the ongoing protection of the OUV of the cultural landscape;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to conduct HIAs for all new development within the property and its setting, particularly at Jatiluwih, and to provide documentation on new development projects and the associated HIAs to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse;*
8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

#### **144. Meidan Emam, Esfahan (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (C 115)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1979

Criteria (i)(v)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1986 to 2001)

Total amount approved: USD 13,321

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: 5,710 Euros (France/UNESCO Cooperation Agreement)

### Previous monitoring missions

July 2002: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2002: Joint World Heritage Centre/World Bank mission; June 2004 and May 2005: UNESCO Tehran Office fact-finding missions; May 2006: World Heritage Centre mission; June and December 2006, April 2007, October 2008, and October 2009: UNESCO Tehran Advisory missions; March 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; May 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Commercial development (issue resolved)
- Underground transportation infrastructure
- Housing
- Urban sewerage and water infrastructure
- Disaster Risk Management (anti-earthquake structural consolidation)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/115/documents>. The report presents the State Party's progress with several conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions, as follows:

- The State Party is elaborating the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) towards 2026, the outline of which was attached to the report. A final version of the outline is expected to be submitted in the months following the submission of the state of conservation report;
- A draft outline of the Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP) is being elaborated, covering the whole heritage areas and the built structures therein, including the evaluation of spatial structures, water-related risks and sewage systems, as well as other existing risks such as anti-earthquake measures for the Ali Qapu Edifice and structural issues of several built components. The DRMP will be submitted as part of the CMP. The State Party confirmed that there has been no major operation with potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party's efforts to address the recommendation of the Committee concerning the elaboration of a Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) and addressing disaster risk reduction through the elaboration of a distinct Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP) are appreciated, although the final drafts are yet to be completed, despite being in the finalisation phase since 2016.

The outline of the CMP identifies the processes being undertaken to develop the plan and a range of some 182 objectives, plans, strategies, policies or measures to address specific areas of the plan. It is hoped that the final draft provides elaboration of the short-, medium- and long-term prioritising of actions to be taken in this complex management environment.

In response to the Committee's request in its last Decision, the State Party provided details of the stabilisation work conducted to the Ali Qapu edifice, while confirming that specific anti-earthquake measures will be planned and implemented for the architectural structures within the property. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request for the submission of plans for restoration and intervention with potential impacts on the OUV of the property for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to their implementation and finalisation.

The DRMP outline submitted by the State Party adopts the ABC method developed jointly by ICCROM, the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) and the Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE) and foresees a sequential approach to identifying and establishing action items according to potential risks and threats, covering the whole area of the Meidan and its four main monuments. While the outline seems to include major and necessary elements for the DRMP, it may be good to also include the actual organization plan to address emergency situations on the ground, such as an organizational chart, work sharing and the roles of different stakeholders, including the inhabitants, at the stage of immediate response.

The investigation and reorganization of the property's water and sewage systems, including its buffer zones, and the proposed implementation using a phased approach should be noted, but it is

recommended that the Committee reiterates its request that the programme be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Following its previous recommendation, the Committee may also wish to reiterate its request that the State Party submit research and analyses on the property's spatial structure, leading to the actual implementation of a possible reorganization of motorized and pedestrian circuits around the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.144**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.64** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Appreciates the efforts made by the State Party with the elaboration of the outlines of the Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) of the property, the Disaster Risk Management Plan (DRMP), and the submission of a detailed report on the past structural intervention to the Ali Qapu edifice and requests the State Party to submit:*
  - a) *The final version of the outline of the CMP and a full draft of this plan,*
  - b) *The draft DRMP, including also:*
    - (i) *an indication of actual first response measures showing the sequential actions and organizational planning, including the division of roles and responsibilities among stakeholders,*
    - (ii) *planning for specific anti-earthquake measures for the Ali Qapu edifice and other built structures of the Meidan Emam;*
4. *Also appreciates the progress achieved with investigations into the water and sewage system of the property and its buffer zones as part of the DRMP, and reiterates its request that the State Party to submit the complete programme of works to the World Heritage Centre for review of the Advisory Bodies as soon as possible;*
5. *Also reiterates its request that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre the final plan towards the development of spatial structures for the motorized and pedestrian access to the property, for review by the Advisory Bodies, as soon as possible and before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse or any further works are carried out, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, in view of a possible reorganization of motorized and pedestrian circuits around the property;*
6. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## 145. Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (C 1568)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2018

Criteria (ii)(iii)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1568/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1568/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems / management plan (Need to adjust the boundaries of the remaining components; Need to finalize an integrated conservation and management plan for the property; Need to establish a monitoring system; Need to adopt and implement the proposed new regulations for the buffer zones of the Firuzabad and Bishapur components; Need to identify areas of archaeological sensitivity)
- Other Threats: Several serial components at risk of collapse or in a condition of serious deterioration

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1568/>

Current conservation issues

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019) (Decision **43 COM 8B.54**). On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1568/documents/> and provides updates on progress made in relation to the issues identified in Decision **43 COM 7B.65**, as follows:

- The State Party has reviewed archaeological data for the components of Firuzabad in order to include them into a single boundary and buffer zone, in line with the World Heritage Committee's request. The State Party has indicated that this can be achieved by incorporating the course of the Tangab river, and a revised map has been provided along with proposed regulations for the buffer zone. The regulations include overarching provisions and specific regulations for construction in Atashkade Village and Kheid-e Mobaraki Village, including height limits, architectural designs, roof forms and surface treatments. For Kei-zarreen Village and Motahari Town, there are additional regulations concerning uses for tourism, agriculture, military camping, dumping and extraction of sand, gravel and stone. The requested redefinition of the boundaries of the two components within the Bishapur region have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Regarding attributes in poor condition, the State Party reports on technical investigations and conservation works completed for the fortress of Qaleh Dokhtar, including emergency measures and improvements to the paths for visitors. Restoration of the fortifications and removal of vegetation are planned for 2021;
- The State Party has provided information from the Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Documentation project developed to identify likely structures in the farmed areas of Goor City (Ardashir Khurreh). A five-year project was launched and started carrying out magnetometer and

photogrammetry surveys of two sites of more than 10,000 square metres each and incorporating the results into a GIS system;

- Information was provided concerning plans to develop the property's monitoring strategy along with the Management Plan and the risk preparedness and disaster mitigation plans. These elements will form a single project that will be conducted in 2021. This work focuses on threats, condition and risks.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party has made progress towards the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's previous decisions. The updated information provided regarding the urgent conservation work and planned programme of documentation and conservation of Qaleh Dokhtar is welcomed, complementing the information provided by the State Party in its 2019 state of conservation report concerning the immediate structural works to Sarbazkhane and the towers at the northern end of the fortification of the Royal Citadel. There is no mention of progress in relation to the recommended work to address post-excavation problems at Bishapur City, but this should be included in the programme of urgent works. A systematic overview of conservation works, with indicative priorities, timeframes and resourcing is needed, underscoring the need for a finalised and effective management plan and a monitoring programme for all attributes. These will assist with the determination of priorities and resourcing requirements.

At the time of inscription of this property, the Committee requested the State Party to adjust the boundaries of the components by providing a single boundary for the five Firuzabad components and for the two Bishapur components, as the boundaries in the nomination file were considered too tightly drawn to demonstrate the relationships between these sites and their landscape settings. The information provided by the State Party outlines an important documentation work and proposed adjustments to the Firuzabad components in response to the Committee's request. These adjustments and the proposed regulations for the buffer zone should be formalized by submitting a minor boundary modification proposal to the World Heritage Centre, including maps and the regulations for the buffer zone, to be prepared in compliance with paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is noted that work required in relation to the Bishapur components has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic but should resume in 2021.

In 2019, the State Party reported that the integrated management plan was close to being finalised; however, it is yet to be provided to the Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and thus the status of this essential document is uncertain. The State Party reports that a project will be conducted in 2021 to develop aspects of the management plan and the risk preparedness and disaster mitigation plans and the monitoring system. This work is very important; however, the full integrated conservation and management plan is also an urgent necessity in order to effectively manage this complex serial property.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.145**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.65**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished by the State Party, and requests that it continue working on the issues identified in previous decisions, including:
  - a) *Completing, as a matter of urgency, the integrated conservation and management plan for the property,*
  - b) *Continuing to implement conservation works for the component sites in poor condition, at risk of serious deterioration, or at risk of collapse,*
  - c) *Completing the programme of geophysical surveys for Ardashir Khurreh in order to identify areas of archaeological sensitivity, and ensuring that agricultural practices are not taking place in archaeologically sensitive areas,*



- d) *Revising the boundary that encompasses the two components in the Bishapur region, as request at the time of inscription, together with proposed regulations for the revised buffer zones;*
4. *Notes the State Party's intention to develop plans for risk preparedness and disaster mitigation along with a monitoring strategy in 2021, and also requests that these plans, along with the draft integrated management plan, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Further requests the State Party to formalise the changes to the boundaries and buffer zone of the components in the Firuzabad region along with the proposed regulations for the buffer zones by submitting a proposal for a minor boundary modification to the World Heritage Centre, accompanied by maps and a copy of the regulations for the buffer zone, in line with paragraphs 163-164 and Annex 11 of the Operational Guidelines;*
6. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.*

**146. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1999)

Total amount approved: USD 13,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: UNESCO Japanese Funds-In-Trust project: USD 379,040 (1996-1997); Italy-funded projects through Lerici Foundation: USD 482,194 (1996-2004; 3 project phases):

Phase I (1996-1997) = USD 161,124; Phase II (1998-1999) = USD 164,000; Phase III (2003-2005) = USD 157,070; UNESCO/France Cooperation Agreement: 20,000 EUR (2020-2021) jointly for Vat Phou and the Plain of Jars

Previous monitoring missions

January/February 2011: UNESCO Mission; November 2011: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission; February 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2013: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission, March 2014: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission; February 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (New infrastructure construction, including new proposed roads)
- Housing (New constructions contributing to the haphazard densification of the main monumental complex)
- Management systems/Management Plan (Lack of a coordinated management mechanism)

- Impacts of tourism/visitors/recreation
- Interpretative and Visitation facilities (Parking lot and visitor centre)
- Human resources (Lack of sufficient professional staff)
- Water infrastructure related to water supply

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 18 March 2021, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/documents> and provides information on the implementation of Committee's previous decision as follows:

- The provincial Building Codes for the Land Use Plan of the Vat Phou Champassak, adopted in 2016, are enforcing effectively the Monument Zoning Plan (MZP) in the Zones 3 and 4. In Zone 4 (Monument Management Zone), new buildings are not allowed, and the new tourism facilities and conservation laboratory have been cancelled. Access to the temple complex is only allowed through electric buggy service;
- While the traffic management scheme is ready to be issued to restrict traffic along Route 14A to light vehicles, funds are still lacking to proceed with the required upgrade to the bypass Route 14B and the completion/repairs of Route 14A. Work on Route 14A, located in the middle of the property, is reported to be suspended, with two bridges decaying; USD 25 million are required to upgrade the bypass Route 14B (55 km), in line with the World Heritage Committee's decision. As the poor conditions of the current transport would impact investment in the zone, the State Party considers the completion of the roads as a regional priority and seeks to fulfil this objective;
- With the support of the *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD) and funding from the French Ministry of Culture through UNESCO, the State Party is commissioning a special expert team to elaborate and update the Management Plan. The team will be led by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MICT) and will involve academics and practitioners in the fields of heritage and tourism development. The revised Management Plan will be submitted to UNESCO by the end of 2021;
- More time, funds and technical support are needed to create more detailed topographic maps of the property, as part of the Vat Phou Champasak Landscape Master Plan project;
- The extension project of the water pipeline by Champasak Water Supply State Enterprise was undertaken and completed in 2019 without a Heritage Impact Assessment, but close monitoring was conducted during the operation by the authorities of Vat Phou.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The Committee may wish to note that the updating of the Management Plan has been progressing with the support of the AFD and funding from the French Ministry of Culture via UNESCO, with a view to integrating existing management tools into a comprehensive and adapted framework. However, concrete elements, such as the descriptions of the contents and materials to ensure a more mission/challenge-oriented approach to inform all activities concerning the property, have not been submitted. The Committee may also wish to acknowledge the enforcement of the control measures in Zones 3 and 4, notably ensured by prohibiting new buildings and using electronic vehicles to move within the archaeological zone. Funds have not been secured for repairs to Route 14A and the upgrading of Route 14B, which would ensure decent transport conditions for inhabitants and influence possible investment opportunities. The Committee may further encourage the State Party to pursue its efforts in approaching international and multilateral stakeholders to mobilise the necessary funds.

The updated topographic map of the property as inscribed in 2001 remains to be completed and submitted in due course for its subsequent examination by the Committee.

It is noted that the Champasak Water Supply State Enterprise implemented and completed the extension of the existing water supply into Champasak town from the southern perimeter of the property at Dontalat in 2019 without carrying out the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) requested by the Committee. While recognizing the legitimate need to supply clean, disinfected and safe water to the 14 villages in the area and over 10,000 people in Champasak town, the Committee may regret that the project was already at an advanced stage of completion when it adopted its previous Decision and was subsequently completed without either a thorough investigation of its potential risks prior to implementation or any

consideration for possible mitigation measures, both of which would have been addressed through the HIA. In the follow-up report of this project, dated June 2019, it is shown that the Vat Phou Heritage Authority intervened to monitor the operation, especially regarding the design, the alignment and depth of the pipelines, and by urging the operators to pay attention to the size of water conduits and the methods and depth of the digging works. While acknowledging these efforts, and considering the other issues with development in or around World Heritage properties in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, notably near Luang Prabang, the Committee may wish to encourage the State Party to consider establishing a legal framework requiring appropriate Impact Assessments to be carried out proactively for all development planning that may have potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties in the Lao PDR, depending on the specific contexts.

Finally, it remains unclear whether the mitigation measures suggested by the 'Critical Review of a Water Supply Project (WSP) Implemented in the World Heritage Complex of Vat Phou Champasak', submitted in 2018, have been executed, as requested by the Committee, and the Committee may request the State Party to provide this information.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.146**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.68** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Notes that the updating of the Management Plan has been progressing and requests the State Party to provide by **1 February 2022** a final draft to the World Heritage Centre, with a more mission/challenge-oriented approach, to inform all activities concerning the property and for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
4. *Notes with concern the reported lack of funds for the implementation of the road network, including Roads 14A and 14B, and encourages the State Party to keep exploring options to mobilise the necessary resources and complete the pending work;*
5. *Reiterates its requests that the State Party submit to the World Heritage Centre an updated topographic map of the property as inscribed in 2001, for its subsequent examination by the Committee, by **1 February 2022**;*
6. *Notes with regret that the water supply extension project undertaken by Champasak Water Supply State Enterprise was not halted, but instead completed in 2019 without the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) requested in its previous decision; also notes that there has been no report on the full application of the mitigation measures suggested in the HIA for the Champasak Water Supply project (WSP) submitted in 2018; and therefore requests the State Party to:*
  - a) *Provide the report on the state of implementation of the mitigation measures suggested in the HIA on the WSP,*
  - b) *Consider the formal establishment of a legal framework requiring that appropriate Impact Assessments be carried out proactively for all development projects that could have potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties in the Lao PDR;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## 147. Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain and its surrounding sacred landscape (Mongolia) (C 1440)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1440/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1440/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/Management Plan (Need to define the protection offered by the buffer zone; Lack of an overall management structure with resources)
- Legal Framework (Lack of legal protection for the property that covers cultural as well as natural attributes) (issue resolved)
- Mining (Mining or extractive industry) (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1440/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1440/documents>. Progress with a number of conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The Administration Office of the World Heritage Great Burkhan Khaldun Mountain and its surrounding sacred landscape, a dedicated authority for the management and conservation of the property and its buffer zone, was established on 1 January 2020;
- The Administration Office commenced operations in April 2020, guided by legally adopted operational guidelines and with a staff of 12. This office operates as a division of the Ministry of Culture, and the Khan Khentii State Protected Area Administration transferred its custodianship of areas that fall within the World Heritage property to the Administration Office;
- Cultural and historical features in the buffer zone are being identified, researched and registered in a database to assist with the further clarification of the nature of protection that the buffer zone should offer to the property. A preliminary survey of the intangible cultural heritage of the inhabitants of the property was likewise conducted and registered, among others;
- The buffer zone has been marked with five 1.7m-tall stelae in five locations;
- A process to complete a Management Plan is in process, led by the Administration Office. This process was initiated with a consultation meeting, attended by high-level governmental and academic stakeholders. The draft Management Plan, which includes clarification of the protection offered to the property by the buffer zone, a framework for future research activities and risk assessment protocols, was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review as an annex to the State Party's report. The ICOMOS Technical Review has been transmitted to the State Party for follow-up action;

- The State Party reports no new conservation or development issues that could negatively impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party has implemented all the conservation actions to which it committed in its previous state of conservation report. It has clarified the jurisdiction of the various administrations over the property and has simplified and strengthened the management structure for the property. The establishment of the Administration Office for the property and its surrounding sacred landscape is an important step in managing the property and safeguarding its OUV. First conservation activities by the Administration Office have already been completed.

The Administration Office has also completed a draft Management Plan for the property, which has been positively reviewed by ICOMOS. It is noted that the draft Management Plan includes a summary of amendments made to the 2014 Law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage, which comprises an injunction on mining, agricultural and industrial activities, and building infrastructure at historical and cultural memorial sites and their buffer zones, including World Heritage properties. The draft Management Plan also includes conservation programmes that cover preventative and active measures.

The ICOMOS Technical Review of the draft Management Plan has, however, highlighted some shortcomings that should be addressed before it is implemented, by including:

- Monitoring of the state of conservation, protection and management of the property and its buffer zone through the use of key indicators;
- A detailed policy and plans for tourism/pilgrimage infrastructure development and visitor control;
- A detailed action plan (mid-term or short term) with the timetable, actions, priorities and duration, estimated budget and sources, implementing agencies and monitoring indicators.

It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to address these issues before resubmitting the final draft for review and implementing the Management Plan.

The State Party has satisfactorily addressed all the requests made by the World Heritage Committee at the time of inscription of the property on the World Heritage List (Decision **39 COM 8B.15**). The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies conclude that there is no need for a further review by the Committee at this time, but the Committee may nonetheless recall the provisions of paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, should the State Party consider major projects within or in the vicinity of the property in the future.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.147**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined* Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. *Recalling* Decision **43 COM 7B.69**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. *Commends* the State Party for its actions in establishing a functioning management authority for the property and addressing its requests recorded in previous decisions;
4. *Takes note of* the timely submission of the draft Management Plan by the State Party to the World Heritage Centre, and *requests* the State Party to take the recommendations of the ICOMOS Technical Review into consideration, notably when finalising the Management Plan so as to include:
  - a) *A system to monitor of the state of conservation, protection and management of the property and its buffer zone through the use of key indicators,*
  - b) *A strengthened tourism development and visitor control policy and plans for the property and its buffer zone,*

- c) *A detailed short- and mid-term action plan with timetable, actions, priorities and duration, estimated budget and sources, implementing agencies and monitoring indicators;*
5. *Also requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with information about any restoration and proposed project and its potential impact on the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, including detailed information on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in conformity with the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for World Heritage cultural properties, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
6. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, a report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including the final draft of the Management Plan, for review by the Advisory Bodies.*

#### **148. Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha (Nepal) (C 666rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (iii)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000 to 2007)

Total amount approved: USD 70,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amounts provided: 2006: USD 7,200 from the UNESCO/Italy Funds-in-Trust; 2008–2020: 49,376 EUR and USD 105,000 from the Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance; 2009–2021: USD 2,319,220 from the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust

##### Previous monitoring missions

May 2004 and November 2005: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; April and September 2008: UNESCO Advisory missions; UNESCO expert missions have been sent every year since 2009 in the context of the implementation of specific projects

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management Systems/Management Plan
- Management activities
- Legal framework
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses
- Commercial Development (Impact of the new structure of the Maya Devi Temple constructed in 2002 on the archaeological remains and the main sight lines of the property)
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Air pollution
- Housing
- Industrial areas

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/documents/>, which provides the following information in response to the Committee's previous requests:

- The Integrated Management Framework (IMF), prepared as part of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project, has been finalized, accepted by the relevant government agencies and forwarded to the National Cabinet for final adoption by the Government of Nepal. The final draft IMF was appended to the State Party report;
- A range of minor structures have been erected within the property, including a wooden security post and a meditation platform. A walkway built from removable concrete blocks has been constructed within the buffer zone, and some areas have been allocated for specific religious activities, such as mass Tripitak chanting, novice ordination and special *pujas*. Work has ceased and is not expected to proceed on the proposed Shree Ram Cement Plant located in the vicinity of the property;
- The Lumbini Development Trust organized an initial discussion for the possible implementation of the Master Plan of the Lumbini World Peace City, which has been approved by the Government of Nepal. Site managers have committed to the completion of comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) before implementing any significant development project under this plan. The Lumbini World Peace City Master plan was appended to the State Party report;
- The 5,000-person-capacity Buddhist Meditation Hall, located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, in the vicinity of the property, is at an advanced stage of construction. An HIA prepared after works had commenced concluded that there would be no significant impact on the property, owing to the distant location of the development. This HIA was appended to the State Party report. The temporary meeting hall, built to organize International Buddha Jayanti celebrations and the International Buddhist Conference in 2018, will be removed once the International Buddhist Meditation and Conference Hall is completed;
- The Lumbini Development Trust is committed to developing a strategy for the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including Tilaurakot and Ramagrama. A draft conceptual plan has been prepared for the archaeological sites of Kapilavastu District, and a regional archaeological workshop and Field Tour have been organised.
- The Committee previously decided that a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission is warranted (Decision **43 COM 7B.71**). However, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mission has not been undertaken.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Although some progress has been made, it is regrettable that the IMF remains to be formally adopted by the State Party, despite repeated requests by the Committee.

The Lumbini World Peace City initiative was approved by the National Government prior to submission of details and the HIA for the project, despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. In view of the scale of this project, the fragile nature of the property and its use as a place of pilgrimage for over 2,000 years, the previously expressed concerns about potential adverse impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property remain. These concerns will not be adequately resolved by considering impact ad hoc, on a project-by-project basis; a more holistic approach is needed.

The World Heritage Centre continues to receive third-party information expressing concerns about new developments at or in the vicinity of the property that may affect its OUV, notably projects about which the Committee was not informed ahead of time, despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The submission of documentation after construction has commenced, or when a project has already been completed, circumvents the ability of the Committee, the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to provide effective and impactful technical advice.

Additionally, some of the activities carried out within the property and its buffer zone do not appear to have been informed by prior HIAs, nor do they reference the Archaeological Risk Map of the property. This is notably the case for the 5,000-person-capacity Buddhist Meditation Hall, located within the

Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, in the vicinity of the property, which is now at an advanced stage of construction; although an HIA was appended to the State Party's report, this HIA was prepared only after works had commenced.

Despite assurances about the State Party's commitment to the protection of the Greater Lumbini Area (GLA) and its wider setting, the State Party is yet to outline a clear strategy encompassing specific actions for the protection of the GLA and its setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to further reduce industrial activity in the vicinity of the property. It should be noted that different phases of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-In-Trust project for the preservation of the property have made progress with archaeological research, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, together with an International Scientific Committee (ISC) established under the project. However, the state of conservation of the property has been deteriorating. It is therefore recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party and other partners to take a holistic approach to focus efforts on the protection and management of the sacred site as a priority, and to mitigate the potential or ascertained danger to the property's OUV and the wider setting.

The State Party should be requested to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as previously decided in Decision **43 COM 7B.71**. This mission should assess the overall state of conservation of the property, review the IMF and all ongoing studies and development proposals, and consider both the strategic approach to the GLA and the implications of the Lumbini World Peace City, in line with the protection of OUV of the property.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.148**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.71**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Notes the finalization of the Integrated Management Framework (IMF) for the property, but regrets that, despite multiple requests, the IMF has not been formally adopted by the State Party, and therefore reiterates its urgent request to the State Party to adopt and implement the IMF as a matter of priority;*
4. *Notes with concern that development activities continue to be undertaken within the property and its buffer zone prior to notification and submission of documentation to the World Heritage Centre, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to complete Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for any proposed project, following the 2011 ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, prior to carrying out any further work within the property or in adjacent areas identified as having potential archaeological significance, and to submit these HIAs and relevant project documentation to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, as soon as possible and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse;*
5. *Expresses its continuing concern about the Lumbini World Peace City initiative and its potential impacts on the property, the Buddhist Meditation Hall located within the Lumbini Kenzo Tange Master Plan Area, and the ongoing need for a clear strategy and concrete further actions to protect the Greater Lumbini Area and its wider setting, including but not limited to Tilaurakot and Ramagrama, and to reduce the increasing industrial activity in the vicinity of the property;*
6. *Takes note of different phases of the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-In-Trust project for the preservation of the property particularly progress made in archaeological research, capacity-building and awareness raising activities, together with an International*



Scientific Committee (ISC) established under the project, strongly encourages the State Party and other partners to take a holistic approach to focus efforts on the protection and management of the sacred site as a priority and to mitigate the potential or ascertained danger to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the wider setting;

7. Requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property as requested in Decision **43 COM 7B.71** to assess its overall state of conservation, review the IMF and all ongoing studies and development proposals, and consider both the strategic approach to the Greater Lumbini Area, and the implications of the Lumbini World Peace City, in line with the protection of OUV of the property;
8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022** 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 45th session in 2022.

#### **149. Baroque Churches of the Philippines (Philippines) (C 677bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1993

Criteria (ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/677/documents/>

##### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1997 to 1998)

Total amount approved: USD 27,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/677/assistance/>

##### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

##### Previous monitoring missions

July 1998: ICOMOS expert mission; July 2000: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

##### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Proposed plan for building an ossuary to replace the original 159 crypt burials (issue resolved)
- Need for long-term solution to control the flow of heavy rainwater (issue resolved)
- Ground Transport Infrastructure (Proposed project to build the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/677/>

##### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report along with an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA), a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and amended project details on the proposed plan to construct the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge (BIB), in addition to the Intramuros Conservation Management Plan (CMP). The report is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/677/documents/> and provides the following updates:

- The BIB was proposed in 2018 as an alternate route crossing the Pasig River to alleviate traffic congestion and contributes to the improved capacity of the road transport network in Metro Manila. The planned BIB location is on the north edge of Intramuros (approximately 550m away from San

Agustin Church, a component part of the property), which is included in the buffer zone of the property;

- The results of the AIA suggest that no archaeological remains that could contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property were identified at the proposed construction site;
- The HIA indicates that there would be no direct physical or visual impact from the project on the San Agustin Church, owing to its remote distance and the number of taller structures between the project site and the church;
- On the other hand, the HIA also demonstrates that, both during the period of construction and upon operation of the bridge, the larger volume of vehicular traffic will result in increased vibration and air pollution, which will have serious cumulative effects on the OUV of the property, even though only light vehicles will be allowed to cross the bridge, as indicated in the amended project proposal;
- In order to avoid adverse impacts on the OUV of the property, the HIA recommends a series of mitigation measures, such as closing the surrounding streets and roads of the property to vehicles and creating pedestrian areas, conducting structural assessment and some changes to public spaces, as well as adapting the design of the bridge approach to the character of Intramuros, and organizing regular monitoring and maintenance work on the property and its surrounding heritage assets that could contribute to the OUV of the property.

In March 2021, an ICOMOS Technical Review on the AIA, HIA and CMP was shared with the State Party.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

It is welcome that the State Party commissioned relevant studies, including the AIA, HIA and CMP to evaluate the potential impact of the BIB project on the OUV of the property.

According to the HIA, as the project site is located remotely from the San Agustin Church, immediate and direct impacts on the property are not anticipated. Nevertheless, significant potential indirect and long-term impacts have been identified as resulting from the two phases of the project: the construction of the bridge and its eventual visual presence and operation. These impacts and some issues arising from the AIA, HIA and CMP have been identified through the ICOMOS Technical Review.

During the period of construction, vibration, dust and noise pollution from the construction work and regular movement of heavy equipment are expected to increase. When the bridge becomes fully operational, increased vehicular activity in Intramuros and its surrounding area would generate additional ground vibration, air and noise pollution, and traffic congestion. These factors could have serious implications on the structural stability, weaken the plaster and compromise the adobe that forms the core material of the church.

Although the BIB would be more than 500 metres away from San Agustin Church, it would have a direct visual impact on the overall setting and sense of place of the property, including the colonial city's fortified wall, as well as the Maestranza strip and the Plaza México, the visual corridor of the Pasig river and the underlying remains of the Baluarte de Santo Domingo, which will be directly and physically impacted by the Intramuros portion of the bridge. In light of the HIA's conclusions regarding the negative impacts on attributes of OUV including vistas, viewsheds and the setting of the property, which could only be partially mitigated by implementing costly mitigation measures, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to reconsider the design of the bridge, its location and the possibility of a 'no-project option', and notably consider converting the surrounding streets and roads of the San Agustin Church into pedestrian areas, conducting structural assessment of the Church and adapting the design of the bridge approach to the character of Intramuros. The HIA should be revised and updated accordingly, the AIA should be revised and expanded in accordance with the findings of the ICOMOS Technical Review and the CMP should also be revised in order to facilitate the long-term management and conservation of all the attributes that convey the significance of the property. The Committee may also request the State Party to provide further information regarding the proposed reconstruction of the Baluarte de Santo Domingo that is mentioned in both the HIA and AIA.

Finally, it is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to provide accurate information to the public on the project and communicate with stakeholders, including heritage experts and local communities, to develop a robust management structure and ensure the conservation of the property.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.149**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.74** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the substantial efforts made by the State Party to develop relevant documents, including an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA), a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and the Intramuros Conservation Management Plan (CMP), to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed Binondo-Intramuros Bridge (BIB) project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Notes with concern that the BIB project could have indirect and long-term impacts on the OUV of the property, and requests the State Party to:
  - a) Reconsider the design of the BIB, its location and the possibility of a 'no-project option', having regard to the ICOMOS Technical Review and the recommendations and mitigation measures of the AIA and HIA, such as converting the surrounding streets and roads of the San Agustin Church into pedestrian areas, conducting structural assessment of the Church and adapting the design of the bridge approach to the character of Intramuros,
  - b) Revise and update the HIA for the BIB project,
  - c) Expand the AIA for the BIB project in accordance with the findings of the ICOMOS technical review,
  - d) Revise the CMP to facilitate long-term management and conservation of all the attributes that convey the significance of the property,
  - e) Provide further information regarding the proposed reconstruction of the Baluarte de Santo Domingo,
  - f) Submit revised documentation for the BIB project, including updated AIA, HIA and CMP to the World Heritage Centre for further review by ICOMOS before any decision is made that would be difficult to reverse or any substantial progress made with project implementation;
5. Encourages the State Party to provide information to the public regarding the project and communicate with stakeholders, including heritage experts and local communities, to develop a robust management structure that ensures the conservation of the property;
6. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 150. Rangiri Dambulla Cave Temple (Sri Lanka) (C 561)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1991

Criteria (i)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1997)

Total amount approved: USD 3,333

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

November–December 1994: ICOMOS mission to Sri Lanka; December 1998: ICOMOS Monitoring mission to Dambulla, Kandy and Galle, Sri Lanka; March 2015: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Newly (in 1999) constructed temple, alien to the World Heritage complex (issue resolved)
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Impacts of tourism / visitors / recreation
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric (Impact of water ingress and other natural forces)
- Management systems / management plan (Lack of tourism strategy and interpretation)
- Pests (Impacts of insect activity)
- Others (Continued deterioration of the paintings;
- General deterioration of the Golden Temple)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/>

### Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **43 COM 7B.75** at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019).

In the 2019 Golden Temple of Dambulla Revised Plan of Management, submitted together with the State Party's 2019 report on the state of conservation, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/561/documents/>, the State Party undertook to address nine immediate (1 year) and thirteen short term (2-4 year) actions that address high priority conservation, interpretation and management issues, a number of which have been highlighted by the Committee at its previous sessions, including;

- Exploring suitable solutions for the property's various conservation issues and submitting documentation;
- Implementing necessary research and planning tasks leading to the finalization of a comprehensive Visitor Management Strategy, adopting a balanced approach to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), its role as a pilgrimage site, its conservation requirements and the needs of visitors;
- Exploring actively means to ensure the transmission of traditional knowledge and skills for wall painting and sculpting.

The ICOMOS Technical Review was provided in September 2020 to the State Party on the Rangiri Dambulla Cave Temple Management Plan (2019-26), which was received on 8 November 2019.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

In the absence of a report on the state of conservation of the property, progress achieved by the State Party towards implementation of the 2019 revised Management Plan cannot be evaluated. Notwithstanding the progress that has been previously reported, the property remains in a perilous state and significant efforts are still required to achieve sustainable conservation of murals and sculptures, transmission of traditional knowledge and skills, and an appropriate balance between the needs and interests of religious communities, pilgrims, tourists and the local community.

However, the 2019 Management Plan for the property clearly identifies issues within the property, many of them previously the subject of Committee requests, and proposes a prioritised action plan to address them. Once implemented, these actions should support an integrated approach that takes into consideration the conservation of the property and its use, the needs of pilgrims and other visitors, and the better transmission of knowledge of OUV to both groups. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to continue with the finalization of the actions identified in the 2019 Management Plan and to submit the solutions and reports arising from the immediate and short-term actions to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The Management Plan gives medium-term priority (4-7 years) to developing a Tourism Management Policy and Strategy, which was previously requested by the Committee as a Tourism Management Strategy (Decision **42 COM 7B.16**) and as a Visitor Management Strategy (Decision **43 COM 7B.75**), while some of the component studies and actions in the Management Plan are given short-term priority (2-4 years). On the other hand, the State Party's 2019 report on the state of conservation stated that a draft Tourism Management Strategy would be submitted in 2019, and that a pilgrim management system would also be developed by local experts, though this is not identified as an action within the Management Plan. The potential for confusion of these various requests and responses suggests that it would be useful to reiterate unambiguously the Committee's previous request. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to finalise a Visitor Management Strategy, to include a Tourism Management Strategy and a Pilgrim Management Strategy, and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The State Party should be requested to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, as previously decided in Decision **43 COM 7B.75**. The mission should assess the state of conservation of the property, and in particular the implementation of the revised Management Plan, the ongoing work to document and conserve the property, progress with the Visitor Management Strategy and the proposed minor boundary modification to expand the property's buffer zone, as previously requested.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.150**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.75**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku 2019),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property by the deadline of 1 December 2020, as requested by the Committee in the aforementioned Decision;
4. Welcomes nonetheless the efforts and progress made by the State Party to improve the overall state of conservation and management of the property;
5. Urges the State Party to continuously implement the Revised Golden Temple of Dambulla Management Plan (2019-2026) with further refinement as recommended by ICOMOS through the Technical Review;
6. Requests the State Party to submit the conservation approaches and related reports arising from the implementation of the immediate and short-term priorities identified in

*the 2019 Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*

7. *Urges again the State Party to finalize a Visitor Management Strategy, including a Tourism Management Strategy and a Pilgrim Management Strategy, and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Also requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as requested in Decision **43 COM 7B.75**, to assess the state of conservation of the property, and in particular the implementation of the revised Management Plan, the ongoing work to document and conserve the property, progress with the Visitor Management Strategy and the proposed minor boundary modification to expand the property's buffer zone;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the Committee at its 46th session in 2023.*

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 151. Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania) (C 569bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 2002-2018)

Total amount approved: USD 80,416

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 1,367,014 is provided by the Albanian Government within the framework of the project 933 ALB 4000 "Safeguarding and restoration of selected monuments within the World Heritage site of the Old City of Gjirokastra – Albania"

Previous monitoring missions

November 2012: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2016: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (planned by-pass road project and conversion of the bazaar into a pedestrian area in Gjirokastra)
- Housing
- Illegal activities (illegal construction dating from the late 1990s and later on)
- High impact research/monitoring activities (lack of specific monitoring indicators)
- Governance (lack of detailed tourism development plan and lack of programme of archaeological excavations)
- Management activities (e.g. restoration work at the Berat Castle)
- Management System/Management Plan
- Other factors (lack of adequate firefighting arrangements in the historic urban zones)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/569/documents/>, and provides information regarding a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions as follows:

- Law 27/2018 "On Cultural Heritage and Museums" is being implemented. The process includes passing by-laws to establish, among others, a National Tangible Cultural Heritage Council, a National Cultural Properties Management Council, a National Cultural Heritage Registration Institute and two Regional Directorates of Cultural Heritage (RDCH);
- General Local Plans for the municipalities of Berat and Gjirokastra provide the framework for the protection of the property's components and buffer zones, which ban new building construction in the property. Restoration in the property and new construction in the buffer zones is regulated by the National Tangible Cultural Heritage Council and the respective municipalities;
- Monitoring indicators are in use by the RDCHs of both Berat and Gjirokastra;

- Development of an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) and appropriate control mechanisms will commence in 2021 and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review before implementation;
- In response to the Committee request to develop and implement an integrated urban conservation and development tool applying the 2011 *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* (HUL), the State Party reports that its national *webgis* platform contains information on values and state of conservation for all monument and cultural heritage sites, and that it maintains a photo record of each building, which will be digitized during 2021. The IMP that is being developed will also be based on the HUL;
- The Project for Integrated Urban Development (PIUTD), funded by the World Bank and Albanian Development Fund which is in its 3rd year, will implement upgrade projects in public spaces in the property's components and buffer zones and Gjirokastra museums. Details were included as 9 annexes to the report for review;
- Public and privately funded maintenance and restoration in both Berat and Gjirokastra, supervised by each respective RDCH, has continued;
- The State Party recommits to employing the mechanism provided by Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* to keep the Committee informed of any potential development that could impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property.

The State Party informed the World Heritage Centre in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* about new plans for a by-pass road project in Gjirokastra on 20 January 2021, requesting review and recommendations from the Advisory Bodies to the project. In response to third party information submitted to the World Heritage Centre outlining the commencement of the construction of the Gjirokastra by-pass road project, further additional information was requested from the State Party in line with Paragraph 174 of the *Operational Guidelines* in a letter dated 16 March 2021. The State Party did not provide any further information or clarification until completion of this state of conservation report.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party is making progress in improving the management system and state of conservation of both the Berat and Gjirokastra component of the property. The steps taken in implementing the legislation "*On Cultural Heritage and Museums*" and the required by-laws is very positive. It is likewise welcome that the State Party has committed to completing the IMP during 2021, based on the provisions of the HUL. This responds to a Committee request in 2016 and is funded through International Assistance approved in 2018.

Some of the proposals included in the PIUTD documentation submitted with the State Party's report in Annexes 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 have been reviewed by ICOMOS and are generally found to be fit for purpose, with recommendations made to augment the designs of the proposals. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to address these recommendations, specifically those relating to the aesthetics of urban interventions, before implementation, and request that the information contained in the PIUTD submissions is used to inform the IMP under preparation. However, it should be noted that the PIUTD project focusses strongly on tourism as an economic basis for the future of the two components of the property. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to diversify its plans to develop a more economically resilient basis for the future of the property.

One component of the PIUTD project not included in the State Party's state of conservation report is the Gjirokastra by-pass road. The by-pass project was already subject to an ICOMOS Technical review in 2016, which recommended the project be reconsidered, following which the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre in a letter dated 4 March 2019 of the suspension of the project. In January 2021, the State Party submitted to the World Heritage Centre a request for review by the Advisory Bodies of a redeveloped proposal for the Gjirokastra by-pass project, then already approved by the National Council on Tangible Cultural Heritage. Third party information received by the World Heritage Centre included documentation that sketches a very worrying situation of the project, which seems to be already under construction. The transmitted design implies the project to have a potential negative impact on the OUV of the property. This needs verification from the State Party, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to halt this project until a mission has assessed its impact on the OUV of the property and made recommendations.



Seeing the number of ongoing and future development plans, governance related questions as well as the conflicting reports on the state of conservation of this property, it is recommended that the Committee also request the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess the progress in improving the state of conservation and the efficacy of development controls and monitoring indicators, as well as advise on the development of the IMP, and assess the by-pass road project.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.151**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.79**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Notes the implementation of the Law “On Cultural Heritage and Museums” and subsequent development of by-laws to create various cultural heritage councils to strengthen and improve the conservation and management of the property, the restoration and maintenance work undertaken during 2019 and 2020 to the built fabric of the property, and the implementation of the monitoring indicators and establishment of a system for building approvals in the management of the property and its buffer zones;
4. Welcomes the submission of the various project proposals of the Project for Integrated Urban Development (PIUTD)-component, apart from the by-pass road for Gjirokastra and, noting that the PIUTD project has tourism development as central aim, requests the State Party to:
  - a) take into account the comments and recommendations provided by ICOMOS to improve the projects presented in Annexes 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 of its state of conservation report, for the further development of the project proposals and before their implementation,
  - b) await further review by the Advisory Bodies of the projects presented in the Annexes 6 and 7 of its state of conservation report before taking any further decisions about their implementation;
  - c) diversify its development plans, to stimulate a broad resilient economic basis for the future of the property;
5. Reiterates its request to the State Party that the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) be completed urgently taking on-board the previous requests of the Committee and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before its implementation;
6. Also notes the information received from the State Party in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines about new plans for a by-pass road in Gjirokastra and further notes third party reports that this by-pass road is already under construction, and therefore urgently requests the State Party to halt construction of the by-pass until such a time as a Reactive Monitoring mission has been able to visit the property to assess if the project has caused or will cause any damage to its Outstanding Universal Value;
7. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to assess progress made in the state of conservation of the entire property, provide guidance on

*the development of the IMP, evaluate the efficacy of development controls and monitoring indicators, and assess the Gjirokastra by-pass project;*

8. *Encourages the State Party to continue providing the World Heritage Centre any development proposals before their official approval, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022.*

**152. The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, Switzerland) (C 1321rev)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**153. Historic Centre of Sheki with the Khan's Palace (Azerbaijan) (C 1549rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (ii)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1549/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1549/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors affecting the property identified at the time of inscription:

- Need to prepare/revise and adopt the Management Plan and Conservation Master Plan
- Need to define guidelines for residential house restoration
- Need to monitor all processes of urban rehabilitation

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1549/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1549/documents> and reports progress in implementing the recommendations of the Committee adopted at its 43rd session (**43 COM 8B.36**), as follows:

- A revised version of the preliminary Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) was agreed with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS in June 2020;
- Based on this revised SOUV, and on a detailed list of attributes developed in collaboration with ICOMOS and an improved inventory, the Management Plan (2020-2025) has been updated;
- In recognition of the need for a comprehensive approach to risk preparedness and mitigation, an Emergency Plan was developed with assessments, and response and recovery plans for each type of man-made and natural hazard;
- A Conservation Master Plan (CMP) has been developed that sets out a framework within which detailed conservation guidelines will be developed for each attribute, and provides conservation guidance on monuments, public buildings and the urban landscape;
- The Restoration Manual has been updated to provide conservation guidance for residential houses;
- An Infill Design Manual has been created for new constructions with the aim of protecting traditional building typologies and traditional urban fabric; it needs updating to align with urban zoning in the Urban Regeneration Plan;
- An Urban Regeneration Plan (URP) has been introduced to respond to development pressures; it includes regulated strict and soft zones and measures to incentivise private participation and ensure community involvement, both of which will be further strengthened;
- The overall strategy is to limit new development and promote appropriate re-use of existing buildings;
- A control mechanism for monitoring urban development has been initiated that involves the Executive Committee of Sheki Region (who approves development projects) liaising with the Reserve Management Centre (RMC) (who manages the property) to ensure that all projects respect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The RMC also advises on implementation. Heritage supervisors regularly monitor each of the reserve areas and meet with residents. The property is also monitored remotely by Azercosmos;
- The Yukhari Bash Reserve has been given national reserve status, bringing better protection and more resources for staff. A new director and two architects have been appointed;
- A Presidential Order of 2018 provides funds to conserve major monuments in the property. The State Tourism Agency is developing projects for 19th century hospital buildings, a museum and an art gallery;
- All the above-mentioned plans and documents have been adopted and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The draft Management Plan, draft Conservation Master Plan and an outline of the URP were submitted to ICOMOS and Technical Reviews were provided for each document.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The work undertaken by the Management team over the past two years is impressive, considering the challenges that were identified at the time of inscription. The revised Management Plan, the new CMP, the URP, and their associated documents have a clear relationship to each other, are based on well-articulated attributes of OUV, and overall, have structures that are mainly consistent and logical.

It is encouraging to note that the overall strategy for the property and its buffer zone is to limit new development and promote appropriate re-use of existing buildings, and that the URP stresses the 'preservation of the main attributes of garden city concept including gardens and water system' and 'ensures and encourages public participation in the planning and implementation of urban regeneration strategies'.

It is noted that all these documents have now been approved. Given the complexity of their implementation, it is suggested that some parts will need reviewing to ensure their effectiveness, particularly in relation to regulatory zones, monitoring, protection of the natural setting, and materials for restoration and rehabilitation.

The urban zoning for the effective use and regulation of the property, as set out in the URP is a good start, but its parameters need to be more detailed and specific for full effectiveness. Currently, there is no distinction between the regulation zones for most of the property and the buffer zone, and the boundaries of some zones cut across the property boundaries. The strongest protection zone covers

the area around the Khan's Palace and some individual buildings, while the second moderate protection zone covers buildings facing streets, with the remaining urban areas of the property and buffer zone comprising the third 'soft' zone, on the grounds that 'they are not visible for the visitors much'. It is recommended that the State Party be requested to ensure that the urban zones clearly distinguish between the property and its buffer zone. Although the CMP stresses the integrity of the 'planned, productive garden city', in relation to the form and designs of dwellings, and the use of surrounding gardens framed by irrigation canals, and the Management Plan well analyses these, they are inadequately defined and protected by the urban zones.

A further concern is that although the crucial and symbiotic role of the surrounding forest is clearly recognised in the Management Plan, and its "urbanization" seen as a potential threat, the combined documents submitted do not yet provide a clear understanding of how this potential threat will be adequately managed.

The overall coherence of the property relates to the accretion of urban landscape and architectural details. The need for monitoring any gradual degradation of these details is well observed and forms part of the Action Plan (part of the Management Plan), and is also stressed in the State Party's report, but what remains unclear is how this process will be carried out to inform management. Detail is also pertinent to the restoration manual. While this is a helpful document for owners, it is considered that its recommendations should be more carefully worded in relation to the use of non-traditional materials and structural stabilization methods for the restoration of traditional houses, if the authenticity of the ensemble is not to be weakened cumulatively over time.

The upgrading of the Reserve to national status is to be welcomed in terms of both the additional protection it provides and the additional resources for staff.

Given the huge effort that has been put into upgrading and developing aspirational and ambitious management documents, it is considered crucial that the specific weaknesses identified here are considered now before implementation becomes entrenched.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.1543**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 8B.36**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the impressive work that has been undertaken over the past two years to develop an ambitious and aspirational suite of management documents consisting of a revised Management Plan, a new Conservation Master Plan, a new Urban Regeneration Plan, an Emergency Plan, and manuals for Restoration and Infill Design;*
4. *Particularly welcomes the focus of the Urban Regeneration Plan on the 'preservation of the main attributes of garden city concept including gardens and water system' ensuring and encouraging 'public participation in the planning and implementation of urban regeneration strategies', as well as the overall scope of the documents;*
5. *Also welcomes the upgrading of the Yukhari Bash Reserve to national status, with the resulting additional protection and resources for staff;*
6. *Notes that although the management documents have now been approved and submitted, given the complexity of their implementation, some measures would need reviewing to ensure their effectiveness, and requests the State Party to:*
  - a) *Re-assess and re-frame the urban protection zones to provide a clearer explanation of what they aim to protect across the city, not just in areas visible to visitors, in relation to the parameters of the 'planned, productive garden city' such*

*as the design and form of dwellings, and the use of gardens framed by a network of irrigation canals,*

- b) Ensure the urban zones, respect the property boundaries and clearly define differences between the property and its buffer zone, by strengthening protection within the property and making modifications, where necessary, to the boundaries of zones,*
  - c) Define more clearly how development threats to the surrounding forest, which has a crucial and symbiotic role as the backdrop to the city, will be managed,*
  - d) Provide more details of the monitoring system in relation to potential gradual degradation of urban landscape and architectural details that cumulatively provide coherence to the garden city, and how the system will inform management,*
  - e) Consider how the recommendations of the Restoration Manual might be more carefully worded in relation to the use of non-traditional materials and structural stabilization methods for the restoration of traditional houses, in order to ensure that the authenticity of the ensemble is not weakened cumulatively over time;*
7. Urges the State Party to consider the above listed specific weaknesses of the plans before implementation becomes entrenched in order to optimise the benefits of the huge efforts that have been put into the development of the management documents;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## **154. Ancient City of Nessebar (Bulgaria) (C 217)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/217/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 1991-1995)

Total amount approved: USD 21,290

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/217/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

November 2010, October 2018: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; November 2012: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/UNESCO Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB - 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage) Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a Management Plan
- Urban development pressure

- Lack of an urban master plan and of a conservation master plan of monuments and archaeological sites
- Illegal constructions
- Housing
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Management Systems/Management plan
- Marine transport infrastructure

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/217/>

*Current conservation issues*

On 26 February 2021, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation, which is accessible at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/217/documents/> and reports on the implementation of Decision **43 COM 7B.81** (Baku, 2019) and other activities in 2019 and 2020, as follows:

- A revised project for the Severna Buna Fishing port was transmitted: a floating pontoon and piers anchored to the sea-bottom have been chosen to augment the mooring capacity of the port;
- Monitoring of the urban environment of the property was implemented in 2020: issues, priorities and remedial measures have been identified;
- Steps to remove illegal constructions and installations continue;
- The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the school and sports centre in the area of the Ancient Necropolis of Messembria is being prepared;
- An Integrated Development Plan for Nessebar Municipality (2021–2027) is being developed to harness EU funds from its regional development and cohesion policy. It was submitted to public consultation and will then be adopted by the Municipal Council;
- A 5-year General Plan for the Organisation of the Traffic (GPOT) in the Ancient City of Nessebar has been prepared and awaits adoption by the municipality in spring 2021;
- Geodetic and photogrammetric survey of the churches and streets has been completed;
- The conservation projects for two windmills have been prepared with financial resources from the municipal fund “Culture”;
- The repaving of several streets of Ancient Nessebar is ongoing;
- Funds for restoring cultural properties and creating a “bazaar and park space” to improve the urban environment of the buffer zone are being sought;
- Underwater archaeological investigations and documentation of the medieval and post-medieval graffiti continues. Reports on the results of the research campaigns and programmes for future research have been transmitted;
- Educational and awareness raising initiatives and events have been conceived but only partially carried out, due to the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Scientific research conducted by the Centre for Underwater Archaeology between 2017 and 2020, aims at gathering scientific data to justify a potential boundary modification of the property.

On some priority actions, the State Party reports the following:

- An analysis of the draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the property has been carried out and recommendations issued;
- The draft General Development Master Plan (GDMP) was sent for an Environmental Assessment by a licensed company in January 2021;
- The preparation of the Detailed Development Plan, based on the adopted Conservation Regimes for the Ancient City of Nessebar (2015), will begin after the adoption of the GDMP.

Other measures discussed in the State Party report were already reported on in 2018 and acknowledged by the World Heritage Committee in 2019.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Some progress has occurred in implementing the Committee's decisions, but key steps remain to be addressed, namely the finalization and approval of the updated CMP, that incorporates an updated Sustainable Tourism Management Plan that addresses the pandemic and post-pandemic scenarios, the Detailed Development Plan for the property and its buffer zone and the GDMP, including guidelines for urban design, and the creation of an inter-ministerial committee, supported by a working group, to ensure clear governance and effective management of the property based on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The analysis of the draft CMP is a useful step but its finalization, approval and entry into force, for which no timeframe has been set out, needs to be achieved urgently as the GDMP is under revision and should incorporate the OUV-based vision for the property on which the CMP should be based.

The State Party has submitted one map of the GDMP. However, a report on the overall principles, strategy and main axes for the future territorial development of the city of Nessebar also needs to be presented, along with the outcomes of the Strategic Impact Assessment, in relation to potential impacts on the OUV of the World Heritage property. No timeframe for the approval and enforcement of the GDMP has been indicated by the State Party.

Following amendments to the Regional Development Act, an Integrated Development Plan for Nessebar has been drafted; however, only a list of projects has been transmitted. No long-term shared vision for the property seems to inform these projects - a vision which is much needed and should be urgently elaborated. For some of the listed projects – the North Coast aestheticization, construction of the Natural History Centre, and completion of the church building in the Black Sea r.a. (see Annex 4. Measure 4.3) – further information and documentation need to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre, according to Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

It is reported that a Specialized Expert Council on the Conservation of Immovable Cultural Properties operates at the Ministry of Culture; nevertheless, this is an advisory body rather than the interinstitutional decision-making body which is needed to ensure a coherent governance of the property. The reported increased dialogue and cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and other relevant ministries, state agencies and Nessebar municipality should facilitate setting up such a committee. The World Heritage Committee may wish to reiterate its recommendation to the State Party to establish promptly an inter-ministerial steering committee for the property involving all relevant actors, supported by a working group, including the staff of relevant institutions.

The 5-year GPOT envisages measures for regulating access of residents and merchandises to the ancient city and identifies parking spaces outside the old fabric, in areas by the sea. These measures seem appropriate, but their effectiveness is to be assessed over time on the basis of careful monitoring.

Research on underwater archaeology has yielded important findings on submerged ancient defense and port infrastructures. The commitment of the State Party to document and increase the knowledge about the property's ancient history and its vestiges is to be recognized and the completion of the research encouraged, so that the necessary Minor Boundary Modification can be promptly submitted.

The State Party seeks to secure financial resources for the conservation, enhancement and better presentation of the property, and has deployed human resources to implement monitoring and documentation. These efforts need to be continued to ensure effective management over time.

The State Party proposes to transform the ICOMOS Advisory mission, which had previously been recommended in 2017, into a series of online workshops to be held in 2021. The World Heritage Committee may wish to recommend the State Party to implement this proposal.

The progress made by the State Party is acknowledged, but efforts need to increase in order for the threats to the integrity, authenticity and OUV of the property, confirmed by the findings of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, to be addressed effectively and systemically. The implementation of much-awaited key actions has commenced but they are yet to be accomplished, while others are expected to enter into force soon. It would be important for a Reactive Monitoring mission to visit the property in 2022 to ascertain the condition of the property and to assess the progress made in implementing the measures requested by the Committee and the recommendations of the various missions to remove the identified threats to the property.

Some progress in implementing the last decisions of the Committee by the State Party has been observed but urgent matters still need to be addressed. Therefore, a consideration of the inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger is not warranted at this point. However, if the absence

of substantial progress in addressing Committee's decisions and all missions recommendations will persist, this might be warranted.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.154**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.81**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Takes note of the progress of the State Party in implementing previous Committee decisions and mission recommendations, but notes with concern that some urgent matters are yet to be addressed as further detailed below;*
4. *Urges the State Party to devise a strategy for the future of Nessebar, based on the sustainable, compatible and equitable development of the town and the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
5. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to:*
  - a) *establish as a matter of high priority a high-level inter-ministerial or steering committee, supported by a working group and by all relevant institutions, tasked with the development of an OUV-based shared vision for Nessebar to align all present and future decisions, plans and projects for the property's conservation, enhancement and development,*
  - b) *finalize, adopt and implement the Conservation Management Plan which incorporates an updated Sustainable Tourism Management Plan, the Detailed Development Plan and the General Development Master Plan, including guidelines for urban design, based on the OUV of the property, as well as continue enforcing the existing protection regimes,*
  - c) *continue to allocate financial and human resources required for effective implementation of the updated Conservation Management Plan and updated General Development Master Plan,*
  - d) *continue to implement the recommendations of the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission as well as all previous mission recommendations that are yet to be addressed;*
6. *Requests the State Party to promptly finalize, approve and implement the General Plan for the Organisation of the Traffic in the Ancient City of Nessebar and to monitor its application and outcomes;*
7. *Takes note with satisfaction of the results of the underwater archaeological investigations and also requests the State Party to promptly finalize the research necessary for a future Minor Boundary Modification request, per Paragraphs 163 and 164 of the Operational Guidelines, to include all underwater archaeological remains of the ancient town;*
8. *Also takes note of the proposal of the State Party to convert the recommended ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property into online workshops to be held in 2021, and invites the State Party and ICOMOS to agree on a suitable period for this activity;*



9. Further requests the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to take place in 2022, or as soon as the sanitary situation allows, to assess its state of conservation and ascertain the progress made by the State Party in implementing the Committee's decisions and missions' recommendations;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property, and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, the Conservation Management Plan, Detailed Development Plan and General Development Master Plan for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023, **with a view to considering, in the absence of substantial progress, the possible inscription of the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

## 155. Upper Middle Rhine Valley (Germany) (C 1066)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2002

Criteria (ii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; December 2012: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of a Master Plan for the sustainable development of the property (issue resolved)
- Potential impacts of the Rhine crossing project
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure (traffic increase)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Input of excess energy (noise pollution)
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Renewable energy facilities
- Management Systems/Management plan
- Quarrying

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1066/documents/>, and which provides updates in response to Decision **43 COM 7B.83** as follows:

- The planning process for a permanent river crossing has been delayed. Investigations into different crossing options continue. The State Party will keep the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies involved in the process and no final decision will be taken before their review and feedback;
- The option to build new railway tracks between Bonn-Troisdorf and Mainz-Bischofsheim to divert freight trains from the World Heritage property is not currently included as a priority project in the 2030 Federal Transportation Infrastructure Plan. A feasibility study has been commissioned for a bypass as well as the railway tunnels between St. Goar and Oberwesel, which underwent fundamental restorations in 2019;
- Comprehensive noise reduction measures are implemented on existing railway routes. The new Railway Noise Control Act took effect on 13 December 2020 and will help in reducing railway noise by half across Germany;
- The planned expansion of the Kandrich Hill wind farm is being evaluated by the district administration. A wind farm in Boppard-Weiler and two turbines near Wiebelsheim, in the setting of the property, were granted approval, despite the findings of the 2012 line of sight study. The Rheinland-Palatine State is assessing options to challenge the approval of potentially damaging projects on a legal basis;
- Planning for the Sankt-Goar-Werlau Holiday Resort is halted. Should it recommence, a spatial analysis and a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) will be carried out and their results shared with the World Heritage Centre;
- Progress has been made to update the Management Plan of the property, but has been hindered by the Covid-19 pandemic. It will include a baseline study for assessing impacts on the cultural landscape;
- The planned Reactive Monitoring mission has been postponed also due to the sanitary crisis and has been scheduled for the early summer 2021.

The State Party provided further information after the submission of its report:

- Design options for a grade-separated intersection planned to the west of Rüdesheim within the property are being evaluated. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been commissioned and a feasibility study is currently on-going;
- A 4-turbine wind farm is proposed in the setting of the property at Himmighofen and Kasdorf. The application is pending; the visualisations carried out suggest that the project will likely have an adverse visual impact on the integrity of the property;
- There are plans to expand the long-existing Sooneck open pit quartzite mine within the property. A comprehensive impact assessment will be carried out as part of the planning approval procedure;
- Another grade-separated intersection is planned to be constructed between the national road B42 and the railway track no. 3507, within the property, for a new local bypass road at Braubach, in order to reduce high traffic through the city centre. The national authorities are considering if an HIA will be required;
- The redevelopment of the *Koblenzer Brauerei 'An der Königsbach'* area in the city of Koblenz, within the property is planned by enhancing some existing buildings and demolishing others to be replaced by new ones. The project entails the conversion of the brewery to new functions and the creation of new residential quarters. The plans are at an early stage, and the German National Committee of ICOMOS is planned to be consulted during the planning process;
- A new planning competition to develop a hotel complex on the Loreley plateau was confirmed by the State Party in April 2020 and additional information was provided to the World Heritage Centre to augment the State Party report. The World Heritage Centre transmitted the review of ICOMOS to the State Party on this proposal on 22 April 2021, and the State Party briefly notified the Centre that the hotel project has been cancelled;
- The Reactive Monitoring mission has been invited by the State Party to be carried out between 20-24 September 2021.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The delay of the planning process for a permanent river crossing is noted and the State Party's intention to keep the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies involved in the process is welcomed. It is also noted that there are several other planned projects within the property, which are either in the early planning or planning evaluation process, and which have the potential to impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The HIA for the Rüdesheim grade-separated intersection was submitted in March 2021 and will be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies.

The efforts of the State Party to work towards long-term solutions to reduce rail related noise pollution within the property are appreciated, as are its efforts to find ways to divert freight trains from the property through the construction of a bypass. However, it is noted that the legal framework to be followed both on the federal and the EU level makes it difficult to find rapid solutions.

The stand-alone impact assessments on wind energy projects submitted for review cannot be assessed as they evaluate the impacts of these developments individually. The continued uncoordinated proposals of wind turbines and wind farms, and their individual and cumulative negative impacts, highlight the need for the State Party to find legally grounded solutions to halt the decisions, declare a temporary moratorium on wind farms in the property, its buffer zone and its setting and develop a strategic spatial framework for wind energy developments for these areas. This spatial framework should be based on sensitivity mapping related to a thorough definition of the attributes that support the OUV of the property (including potential visual impacts), and then be assessed through a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that provides means for looking at cumulative impacts and enables to address them at the earliest stage of decision making. Once these documents have been reviewed by the Advisory Bodies, the approved spatial framework can form the basis of wind energy development siting in the future.

The proposed hotel complex development on the Loreley plateau, which is a critical attribute of the OUV of the property, has been evaluated by ICOMOS. The proposal was considered to have a high negative impact if implemented on both this area as well the entire property, endangering also the OUV thereof. Subsequently, the State Party informed the World Heritage Centre about the cancellation of the project. A strategic framework should be developed for a suitable future use of the plateau that supports the OUV of the property. Such a framework could be assessed through impact assessment procedures before submission to the World Heritage Centre for review.

Seeing the number of projects with potentially negative individual and highly-negative cumulative impacts on the OUV of the property, it is recommended that the State Party be requested to keep the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies informed of all major project design options planned for implementation within or around the property in line with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, and ensure that independent impact assessments are carried out for them. Project documentation should be provided for evaluation and feedback before final or irreversible decisions are made. The State Party should be encouraged to pay special attention to this advice in relation to the *Koblenzer Brauerei 'An der Königsbach'* development, the Sooneck mine expansion and the Braubach bypass projects.

The progress made to update the Management Plan should be noted with satisfaction, as should efforts to include a tool that will facilitate impact assessments related to the OUV and attributes of the property. Therefore, it is essential that the Management Plan is based on, or mandates the short-term creation of a thorough identification of attributes that support the OUV of the property as a whole and for its component areas, which can serve as informant for impact assessment and other planning procedures. The document should also be accompanied by a shared vision for protection and management by the stakeholders, and the State Party has to ensure that the Management Plan is adequately embedded in the national and federal legal system. The draft document should be submitted for review and comments to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prior to its finalization.

Noting the proposed dates for the Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, it is recommended that the State Party be encouraged not to make any final or irreversible decisions for major projects before the planned mission has visited the property, and to provide a status update on the extension of the Koblenz cable car operating permit to the World Heritage Centre.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.155**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.83**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Commends the State Party for its progress made to update the Management Plan of the property, as well as conducting a study that will facilitate impact assessments related to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and attributes of the property, and requests the State Party to ensure that:
  - a) the Management Plan includes a thorough inventorying of the attributes of the property and its constituent parts, or makes provision for a short-term creation of such an inventory as baseline for impact assessments,
  - b) the document includes a shared vision by stakeholders for the protection and management of the property,
  - c) the Management Plan is adequately embedded in the national and federal legal system,
  - d) the draft consolidated document is submitted to the World Heritage Centre, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in order to ensure that its recommendations and comments can be appropriately taken into account in the final document;
4. Notes the delay of the planning process for a permanent river crossing and reiterates its request to the State Party to involve the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, at the earliest possible stage in the appraisal of options undertaken in a wide regional strategic context, but focusing on developing solutions for local needs, and before any decisions are taken;
5. Also notes the State Party's efforts to reduce rail related noise pollution, especially from freight trains and encourages the State Party to continue to find long-term solutions for diverting these trains from the property;
6. Notes with concern that a wind farm in Boppard-Weiler and two turbines near Wiebelsheim, in the setting of the property, were granted approval, despite the findings of the line of sight study of the project, which considered them incompatible with the OUV of the property; and, in order to avoid adverse impact from these projects to the OUV of the property, urges the State Party to:
  - a) Find legally grounded solutions that will allow the refusal of applications for wind energy projects which would potentially have a negative impact on the OUV of the property and its attributes,
  - b) Declare a temporary moratorium on wind energy developments in the buffer zone and setting of the property,
  - c) Develop a strategic spatial framework for wind energy developments that is based on a sensitivity mapping for the property, its attributes, its buffer zone and its wider setting, related to the OUV of the property (including potential visual impacts), and which can form the basis of wind energy development siting in the future,
  - d) Ensure that the developed spatial framework is assessed through a Strategic Environmental Assessment that provides means for looking at cumulative impacts and enables to address them at the earliest stage of decision making,

- e) *Ensure that the above documents are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Further notes that a number of projects are planned or proposed for approval, which have the potential to impact on its OUV, therefore, also requests the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies informed of all major project design options planned for implementation within the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and ensure that impact assessments are carried out for these and that irreversible decisions are not taken before the relevant documentation has been reviewed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
8. *Welcomes the cancellation of the hotel project on the Loreley plateau, and further requests the State Party to develop an appropriate spatial framework for the future use of the Loreley plateau, based on a thorough assessment of the relevant attributes that convey OUV and supporting their critical contribution to it, and test this spatial framework through an independent Visual Impact Assessment and Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) before the framework is given legal status and any new proposals are developed following on from the framework;*
9. *Notes furthermore that the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission has been postponed to September 2021, if the sanitary conditions will allow it; and nevertheless encourages the State Party not to make any final or irreversible decisions for major projects before the planned mission has visited the property, and to provide in the meantime a status update on the extension of the Koblenz cable car operating permit to the World Heritage Centre;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **156. Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata (Italy) (C 829)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (iii)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 183 487: Italian Funds-in-Trust

### Previous monitoring missions

December 2010 and January 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; January 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2014: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- A series of structural collapses at the property (issue resolved)
- Inadequate restoration and maintenance; lack of skills (issue resolved)
- Building projects in the vicinity of the property (possible impact of the project of visitor centre at Torre Annunziata and storage facility project in Pompei)
- Management system
- Inadequate funding
- Ineffective drainage systems
- Visitor pressure
- Need to propose a new buffer zone

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/829/documents/>, and presents progress in conservation issues previously addressed by the Committee, as follows:

- Funding has been provided to update the Management Plan of the property. Work on the document started in early 2020; the document is intended to become a practical tool for the site management, tackling also topics of sustainable use of the site, knowledge dissemination and the involvement of public and private actors of the region into the management;
- Both the financial resources and the human capacities have been secured and improved for the site management, despite of losses from visitors' tickets due to the COVID-19 crisis;
- Detailed reporting has been provided in relation to the hydrogeological stabilization works carried out at the Pompei component, which is now nearing completion. The reporting includes a brief summary of the new excavation results, carried out in relation to the stabilization and consolidation works of excavation profiles and fronts;
- Comprehensive description is included on the conservation status of the 13 buildings in Pompei that were noted as endangered by the 2013 mission. All of these have been stabilized and restored or are under the process of conservation. In addition, stabilization and restoration has been carried out between 2018 and 2020 for buildings and decorative elements at Pompei and Torre Annunziata, and the programme of planned maintenance has begun. Visitor access and routes have also been devised and are assisted now with an online application;
- In Herculaneum the first cycle of scheduled maintenance has started in January 2019. As a result, the House of the Bicentenary has already been opened for visitors and other houses will follow after restoration. Two digital projects for visitors are being developed for this component to allow the remote discovery of the site;
- The project at Porta Nola is reported to be progressing; the site management at Pompei is preparing a new tender for the construction;
- A report and documentation have been submitted to UNESCO in relation to the plans for constructing a visitor centre at Torre Annunziata;
- A minor boundary modification proposal for the revision of the buffer zone has been submitted to UNESCO, which will be examined by the World Heritage Committee under item 8 of the Agenda (Document WHC/21/44.COM/8B).

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The management system of the property demonstrates now a more harmonious cooperation between the responsible bodies, and their joint efforts for updating the Management Plan should be welcomed, as well as the intention of the site management teams to upgrade the document for becoming a basis of a participatory management approach on regional and local levels. The State Party should be encouraged to ensure that the document will serve as a strategic management tool that is continued to be accompanied with short/medium and long-term action plans. Further progress has been made to improve the human capacities of the site management bodies and also their internal organisation efficiency. In spite of the drastic COVID-19 related decrease in ticket sales for visitors, the 2020/2021-

year financial resources for the site management is stable, also due to relief funds from the cultural ministry.

The successful progress of the hydrogeological stabilization works at Pompei should be noted with satisfaction. The new areas excavated, which were the result of the associated archaeological surveys, underwent conservation and restoration, these also allowed deeper insight into the old excavation methodologies and reinterpretation of some earlier finds.

Further progress is noted in stabilizing and improving the condition of structures and decorative surfaces both at the 13 buildings at Pompei, reported to be at risk, and at all components of the property. A stable cycle of maintenance routine has now been put in place. More Roman houses have been made accessible for visitors at Pompei and Herculaneum, and both the site security, visitor services, management, and accessibility (also by digital tools) were enhanced.

The legal proceedings concerning administrative aspect of the project at Porta Nola have been concluded, and the project can now be re-launched. While the State Party report includes some information and drawings, images related to the planned storage building, it should be noted with regret that its detailed design plans have not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre as requested by the last Decision of the Committee. A more complete documentation is to be requested in order to clarify that the project will have no negative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and before any tender procedures or other commitments are undertaken.

Project plans for the new visitor centre, immediately adjacent to the Torre Annunziata component of the property, were submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for review in May 2019, and recommendations and comments were transmitted to the State Party in August 2019 in the form of an ICOMOS Technical Review. The State Party was advised to continue suspending the construction works and revise the design plans until a full range of options have been explored that ensure protection and enhancement of the property's OUV, and the full design proposal have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed. Further design plans were submitted by the State Party in January 2021, but these documents reflected that there has been no attempt to address the matters and advice outlined in the Technical Review. The State Party should, therefore, be requested to revise the design plans in line with the advice provided in the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review, and be reminded of the importance of informing the World Heritage Centre regularly and in due time about any project plans and proposals in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

Among the factors affecting the property, issues related to the management system, inadequate funding, and threats related to ineffective drainage system are progressing, but have not yet been fully resolved.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.156**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.85**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Commends the efforts of the State Party to progress on the management system of the property and to resolve issues related to inadequate human resources capacities and funding, additionally, for resubmitting the proposal for the revision of the buffer zone in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
4. Welcomes the updating process for the Management Plan of the property, as well as the intention for upgrading the document to become basis of a participatory management approach on regional and local levels, and encourages the State Party to:
  - a) *Ensure that the document will serve as a strategic management tool that is continued to be accompanied with short-, medium- and long-term action plans,*
  - b) *Submit the draft Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, before its finalization and approval;*

5. Also welcomes further progress made on stabilizing and improving the state of conservation of the structures and decorative surfaces of the property, and the efforts of the State Party to put in place stable cycles of maintenance routine, as well as to upgrade visitor access and experience, and requests future updates as conservation works are completed on the buildings that were noted as being in danger during the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission;
6. Also commends the State Party for progress on the hydrogeological works at Pompei that should resolve the issue with the ineffective drainage system, and the use of associated archaeological surveys stabilizing the excavation profiles to enhance the knowledge both about the property and its excavation history;
7. Notes that the legal proceedings related to administrative aspects of the project at Porta Nola have been concluded, but regrets that the detailed design plans of the planned storage facility have not been submitted to the World Heritage Centre as requested by Decision **43 COM 7B.85** of the Committee, and therefore, reiterates its requests to the State Party to provide the design plans together with the planned timeline of the project as soon as possible and before any commitments have been taken, including any new tender process, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Considers that the submitted design plans for the visitor centre at Torre Annunziata should be further revised in line with the 2019 ICOMOS Technical Review, and also requests the State Party to continue suspending the construction works and provide the full revised design plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
9. Reminds the State Party to inform or update the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2023**, 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 47th session in 2024.

## 157. Krzemionki Prehistoric Striped Flint Mining Region (Poland) (C 1599)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (iii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1599/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1599/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A



### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Management Systems/Management Plans (specify how land development plans will ensure buffer zones work effectively; Need to finalize the creation of the cultural park; Necessity to consider of Heritage Impact Assessment methodology in the management system)
- Quarrying (negative impact of the working limestone quarry in the Korycizna buffer zone)
- Financial resources (necessity to ensure long-term funding for research)
- impact of research activities (necessity to ensure compatibility of research objectives with conservation plan)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1599/>

### Current conservation issues

On 23 November 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, the executive summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1599/documents/>. The report provides information on measures implemented by the State Party in response to Decision **43 COM 8B.29** (Baku, 2019) at the time of inscription, as follows:

- Information for progress on implementing the Management Plan is provided, focusing on the establishment of the Cultural Park of Prehistoric Flint Mining on Kamienna River. The State Party has noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the implementation of the Management Plan;
- It is reported that the complete closure of the current mining activity in the buffer zone of the Korycizna component is a process that will take time. In 2020, preliminary discussions were held with the owner of the active quarry, and an extensive information campaign was carried out on the risks to the property posed by mining activity;
- An agreement has been prepared on the creation of the Cultural Park between local governments and the Historical and Archaeological Museum in Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski (MHA), and an agreement on cooperation on the organization of the Cultural Park and its protection has been signed between the MHA and the National Institute of Cultural Heritage. The completion of the preparatory work for the formal establishment of the Cultural Park was planned for the end of 2020;
- In relation to the land development plans, which are a condition for the establishment of the Cultural Park, the detailed rules, that will ensure the effectiveness of the buffer zone in protecting the property, will be developed as part of the revision of existing plans and the development of new ones. Formal legal protection of areas of the buffer zones adjacent to the property's components has commenced;
- A number of activities are noted which took place under the management system, aiming specifically at the improvement of the conservation and protection as well as the research knowledge of the property;
- With a view to ensuring the long-term funding of the archaeological research programme and more effective protection, the State Party reports that negotiations between the MHA and the Swietokrzyskie Voivodeship are in progress.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Progress has been made in relation to some of the World Heritage Committee's requests and recommendations, including on the ongoing implementation of the Management Plan. In particular, progress on the establishment of the Cultural Park of Prehistoric Flint Mining on Kamienna River, and the inscription of areas of the buffer zones adjacent to the property's components on the register of monuments, providing legal protection, are to be welcomed.

However, there are significant elements which require further work and clarification, such as the date of the formal establishment and operationalization of the Cultural Park. As recognized by the State Party, this is a key instrument to underpin the effectiveness of the buffer zones in protecting the property and its wider surroundings. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to submit information on the date of establishment, organization, and operation of the Cultural Park and how this corresponds with the Management Plan of the property.

In relation to strengthening the protection measures for the buffer zones, further details are required on how the local spatial development plans being prepared in the context of the establishment of the Cultural Park will ensure the effectiveness of the buffer zones in the protection of the property.

The Committee's previous decisions recognized the negative impact of the working limestone quarry in the Korycizna buffer zone, to the immediate south-east of the property. The adverse effect of the quarry on the integrity of this component of the serial property is specifically noted in the ICOMOS evaluation. It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to take appropriate and immediate measures to attenuate this negative impact.

Furthermore, it is noted that the State Party mentions both existing and potentially planned mining activities 'in the vicinity of the property'. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to provide clarification of the status and location of these activities. Any planned mining activities in the buffer zones would be considered as inappropriate. In case mining activities are planned in the wider setting of the property, it is recommended that the State Party be requested to carry out a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the project and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in advance of any potential commencement.

While recognizing the actions taken as part of the operational implementation of the Management Plan, it is again advised that the State Party include a HIA methodology in the management system of the property.

The discussion on the long-term funding of the archaeological research programme is welcomed; however, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to guarantee that the research objectives of the programme are adequate in view of the conservation plan.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.157**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 8B.29**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Takes note of the progress accomplished by the State Party, and requests it to continue working on the issues identified at the time of inscription by:*
  - a) *Taking appropriate and immediate measures to attenuate the negative impact of the working limestone quarry in the Korycizna buffer zone,*
  - b) *Finalizing as soon as possible the process of creating the Cultural Park, in order to make the buffer zones effective,*
  - c) *Specifying in detail how the land development plans, which are a condition for the establishment of the Cultural Park, will ensure that the buffer zones provide an additional level of protection for the property, in conformity with Paragraphs 103 to 107 of the Operational Guidelines,*
  - d) *Further developing and strengthening the Management Plan by:*
    - (i) *continuing its implementation in order to ensure effective protection of the property,*
    - (ii) *including Heritage Impact Assessment methodology in the management system of the property, to ensure that any programme or project relating to, or having an impact on, the property, such as any potentially planned mining activities, is evaluated in terms of its impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value and the associated attributes,*
    - (iii) *ensuring the long-term funding of the archaeological research programme,*

(iv) *guaranteeing that the research objectives of the programme are adequate in view of the conservation plan;*

4. *Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2022, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.*

## **158. Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga (Portugal) (C 1590)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1590/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1590/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

Factors identified at the time of inscription of the property:

- Legal framework (classify the whole site as a National Monument)
- Management System/Management Plan (improve the documentation, update and supplement the Management Plan, improve the Action Plan, visitor management, improve institutional links between stakeholders)
- Low impact research/monitoring activities (develop additional monitoring indicators and improve the documentation related to heritage elements)
- Buildings and development (remove the terrace bar)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1590/>

Current conservation issues

On 16 December 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1590/documents/>. The report presents the State Party's progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at the time of the inscription, as follows:

- Details of progress on documenting the property are provided. The State Party reports that the entire historical archive has been inventoried, as has 70% of the movable property pertaining to the sanctuary;
- In response to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a reprogramming of actions. No major buildings works are underway, and currently only preventative maintenance is being carried out. A schedule of actions from 2021-2025 is provided. It is expected that the majority of funding will be obtained through European Union funding, the balance being covered through the annual budgets of the 'Confraria de Bom Jesus', the owners of the property;

- The municipalities of Braga and Guimaraes have drawn up and are implementing the 'Intermunicipal Sacromontes Programme' (IPM) to improve institutional links for fire prevention and firefighting;
- The entire property has been classified as a National Monument by Notice No. 20150/2020;
- Initiatives for visitor control in the action plan focus on pedestrian and car traffic planning and parking and enhancing the visitor experience of the property. The Confraria developed a rehabilitation study of the Portico area, set out in the 'Programme to Improve the Visitation of the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte' (2020);
- Considering the recommended additional monitoring indicators, the State Party reaffirms that those identified in the nomination dossier regarding the park and woodland are still relevant. Baseline data has been provided by the detailed vegetation study. The definition of monitoring indicators to address urban expansion/development requires the official publication of the revised Braga Master Plan. Monitoring of visitor impacts is expected through the IPM;
- The vegetation study provides a classification of the existing vegetation, focusing on the arboreal stratum, and an analysis of documentary sources. The study concludes that the sanctuary's current tree heritage is very important to the scenic and functional value of the property, nevertheless, it represents a considerable management challenge;
- The contract for the management of the terrace bar reportedly ended at the end of 2020. A plan has been approved to remove the terrace bar (in early 2021) and create a new circulation scheme.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Progress was made in relation to some of the World Heritage Committee's recommendations at the time of inscription. In particular, the classification of the entire property as a National Monument, the establishment of the IPM, the commitment to remove the terrace bar, and the implementation of the detailed vegetation study are welcome.

Noting that the legal protection of the whole site as a National Monument means that the buffer zone corresponds under national legislation for all purposes to a Special Protection Zone, it would be helpful if the State Party could clarify how it proposes to develop monitoring indicators to identify potential threats to the property and buffer zone from urban expansion/development, including private building activity inside the buffer zone, and how this will be linked with the Braga Master Plan.

The IPM not only provides for the establishment of a strategy to combat forest fires but covers a wider programme of economic and social development and environmental quality assurance. The programme is planned to be concluded in 2022, and it would be important to clarify how the strategy to combat forest fires, and the broader programme of cooperation between Braga and Guimaraes, will be sustained in the future.

The detailed vegetation study with inventory of the arboreal elements of the vegetation and conclusions in relation to the importance of the vegetation as complementary to the architectural design and ornamentation of the Sanctuary's built elements, are all to be welcomed. However, no detail is provided on how this information will be used to update management planning for the landscape of the property. Given that the study recognizes that the current tree heritage of the property represents a considerable challenge for the future management of the property, it would be appropriate to request detailed information from the State Party in relation to how the vegetation study will inform the management of the property and monitoring indicators for the park and wood.

Several previously recommended elements have not been addressed and require further work and clarification, such as the inventory of heritage elements of the property. Some immediate actions and funding applications are noted, as is the decrease in the Confraria's revenues as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the planned actions appear to involve extensive construction or conservation activity, such as the creation of an interpretation centre and the conservation and restoration of three chapels in the *Terreiro dos Evangelistas*. Noting that previous recommendations included the need to improve the Action Plan, the Committee may wish to address this as a priority and request the State Party to submit a revised Action Plan, a Conservation Plan and, given the focus on the visitor experience, a Tourism Management Plan as part of an updated Management Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to its adoption.

The State Party recognizes that the scale of planned interventions, for example in relation to the rehabilitation of the Portico area, could have repercussions on the property as a whole and states that the impacts are being studied. Given the scale and potential impacts of proposed developments on the

property, it is recommended that World Heritage Committee request the State Party to develop a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for all the proposed developments and their potential cumulative impact, to be communicated to the World Heritage Centre before construction, in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the *Operational Guidelines*.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.158**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 8B. 31**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished and welcomes the efforts of the State Party in particular to classify the whole property as a National Monument, to establish institutional links between the two municipalities and other stakeholders for fire prevention and firefighting, to complete a vegetation study and to commit to the removal of the terrace bar;
4. Requests nevertheless, the State Party to continue working on the issues identified at the time of inscription by:
  - a) Completing an inventory of heritage elements of the property,
  - b) Developing additional monitoring indicators to address the state of conservation of the park and the woodland,
  - c) Closely monitoring urban expansion/developments that may have an impact on the property, including within and beyond the buffer zone, as a specific action in the revision of the Braga Master Plan,
  - d) Closely monitoring the threat of fire, through the continuation of the 'Intermunicipal Sacromontes Programme', or similar programmes,
  - e) Carrying out Heritage Impact Assessments of proposed developments within the property, also with regard to their potential cumulative impact, particularly those in relation to the 'Programme to Improve the Visitation of the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte', in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, for submission to the World Heritage Centre in advance of the proposed developments,
  - f) Updating the Management Plan to include:
    - (i) a revised Action Plan, detailing all the proposed actions in the property with an associated timetable,
    - (ii) a detailed Conservation Plan, as the basis for a well-planned and long-term conservation approach,
    - (iii) bearing in mind the focus on visitor experience, a Tourism Management Plan that includes actions, time schedules and dedicated resources,
    - (iv) the results of the vegetation study to present, manage and sustain the vegetation, particularly the tree heritage, as an important element of the property that supplements its landscape attributes,
    - (v) a revised and more effective monitoring system by ensuring regular reporting on conservation work, the state of the park and wood, the impact of visitation, and the threat of urban expansion/development and forest fires;

5. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 December 2023, 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 47th session in 2024.*

## 159. Cultural and Historic Ensemble of the Solovetsky Islands (Russian Federation) (C 632)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

August 2013: Joint UNESCO/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; July 2015: ICOMOS Advisory mission; April 2018: Joint UNESCO/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Inadequate coordinated management between national, local and religious authorities
- Lack of appropriate legal measures and rules for conservation, restoration, management and use of World Heritage properties of religious interest
- Poor state of conservation of the monastic irrigation system
- Inappropriate location of the planned Museum Complex
- Construction of an airport building
- Lack of adequate development control processes and Master Plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/>

### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/632/documents>. Additional information was also provided on 22 March 2021. The report and additional information address the recommendations of the Committee adopted at its 43rd session (**43 COM 7B.88**) and provides a detailed overview of work undertaken and planned, as follows:

- The Ministry of Culture has approved the development of a comprehensive Concept for the development of the Solovetsky archipelago - now in progress;
- A Master Plan for the property, that takes account of the Concept, is being developed in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and will:
  - Articulate a vision of the islands' conservation and development for the next ten years,
  - Define strategies for spatial development that bring together natural, social, cultural and historical aspects, and respect the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV),

- Provide a comprehensive framework for managing change including ways to improve the lives of both the monastic and local communities;
- The Fund for the Conservation and Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago (the Fund) set up in 2018 is working actively and effectively and has supported the Master Plan, education, waste disposal and promotional activities for local communities, and conservation;
- Annual meetings at the property are attended by the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, representatives of the Solovetsky Monastery, the Governor of the Arkhangelsk Region, the Head of the Republic of Karelia, the heads of some ministries and departments, as well as the Chairman of the Fund;
- Key projects now have comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared and details of both are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for Technical Review by ICOMOS (these have included the new airport building, the new hospital, the possible reconstruction of St. Onufrievskaya's church, and new freight and passenger terminals);
- A draft three-year action plan for conservation projects has been prepared for the main monastic buildings and their ancillary structures, and for the canal and lake system;
- Work on revising the plans for the new museum is still on-going. The airport runway will not be extended, a decision to demolish the old timber hospital building has been abandoned, and an educational complex is planned based on the existing school, nursery school and outbuildings, rather than on constructing a new school;
- In the additionally submitted information, the State Party shifts from the term 'Master Plan' to 'Development Strategy', making also suggestions on how to harmonize the terminology used in the Russian and the English documents, as the translation of the Russian term for 'Master Plan' has the meaning of both 'General Plan' and 'Development Strategy';
- Work to grant the property the status of a site of religious and historical interest at the national level to ensure the national protection of the property is in its completion phase. In this context, a Historic and Cultural Core Plan has been prepared.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The Master Plan under development for the property is a major step forward. Its objective is to articulate a vision of the islands' conservation and development for the next ten years. The Plan is based on a detailed consideration of the key attributes of OUV, both material and immaterial, and encompasses the sacred and secular landscapes, the religious activities of Solovetsky Monastery, and the needs of religious, secular and pilgrim communities. It aims to secure optimal management of the property through identifying strategies that can frame both day-to-day management and development. It is stressed that the term 'development' will relate only to processes that support the preservation and optimisation of the interrelated natural, social and cultural and historical systems of the islands, as reflected in their OUV.

Although the Master Plan will ultimately encompass the whole Archipelago, its first phase concentrates on the main monastic complex and adjacent Solovetsky settlement where the need to resolve competing pressures is perhaps greater than elsewhere, and where 'area planning design' is urgently needed. The Plan identifies various spatial themes related to the "ambience and aura of the place", and how these are perceived and relate to the different communities – that is Monastic, local people, and pilgrims/visitors. The main outputs of the Master Plan will be adjustments to protection zones and spatial regulations, as a basis for future land use and development plans, and detailed development of the Management Plan.

The Master Plan is being developed with advisory assistance from ICOMOS through reviews and virtual meetings, and this process has so far been productive. The outline framework of the Plan is already being used in relation to how forthcoming projects are planned and designed, including proposals to rationalise the jetties for passengers and goods and a new airport building. For both projects, low-key designs have been developed for timber structures that reflect and complement local building traditions. The regular submission of documentation and HIAs for these projects to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS is noted, as are ICOMOS' positive reviews of recent submissions.

The development of the Master Plan, combined with the support of the now-active Fund for the Conservation and Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago (the Fund), have together revitalized and

coordinated the way the property develops forward planning, with a high-level engagement of the Orthodox Church, the Arkhangelsk Region, the Republic of Karelia, and national ministries and departments. Conservation projects are being developed for the main monastic structures as well as for service buildings (the Solovetsky Monastery having the most complete set in Russia) as well as for the needs of the local community in relation to medical, education, transport and waste disposal facilities. Proposals are currently being developed for the vernacular buildings, as well as the extensive canal and lake system, and a Visitor Strategy.

The long list of conservation projects planned for development over the next two years is welcomed. More details are needed, though, on how the projects for the restoration and conservation of the main monastic buildings will include improved supervision, processes and materials, following the halting of inappropriate work.

It is noted that a project is being developed for the repair and restoration of the large, early-19th-century Saint Petersburg Hotel that was largely destroyed by fire in the 1990s. Given the size and prominence of these ruins near the Monastery, it would be helpful for details to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest stage possible.

The suggestion by the State Party to adjust the terminology in English and Russian documents is noted. In order to avoid misunderstanding and miscommunication, it is recommended that the State Party provide an overview on the list of terms in Russian, adding the English translation used in previous documents submitted to the World Heritage Centre and the English translation the State Party wishes to use in future documents.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.159**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.88**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the on-going development of the Master Plan for the property, as well as its focus on detailed considerations of the key attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and on the needs of the religious, secular and pilgrim/visitor communities;*
4. *Notes that the Plan will ultimately encompass the whole Archipelago, with the first phase being concentrated on the main monastic complex and adjacent Solovetsky settlement, and that its main outputs will be revisions to protection zones and spatial regulations that will guide future land use and development plans, and the development of a Management Plan for the property;*
5. *Also notes that the development of the Master Plan receives advisory assistance from ICOMOS, and encourages the State Party to continue this process of dialogue and to submit the final Master Plan and the Management Plan, once they are approved by the Advisory Bodies, to the World Heritage Centre;*
6. *Notes with satisfaction that the outline framework of the Plan is already being used in relation to how projects are planned and designed, such as for the new jetties and associated timber passenger reception building, and for a proposed airport building, and that details of these projects and associated Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) have been regularly submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS, and also encourages the State Party to continue this process;*
7. *Notes with appreciation the beneficial impact of the now-active Fund for the Conservation and Development of the Solovetsky Archipelago, which, together with the Master Plan's development, appears to have revitalized and coordinated the way the property develops*



forward planning, with the high-level engagement of the Orthodox Church, the Arkhangelsk Region, the Republic of Karelia, and national ministries and departments;

8. *Further notes* the extensive draft list of conservation projects that are being developed, not just for the monastic structures but also for service buildings, vernacular buildings, and the extensive canal and lake system, and *requests* the State Party to submit further details on how the restoration and conservation projects for the main monastic buildings will include improved supervision, processes and materials, following the halting of inappropriate work;
9. *Also requests* the State Party to submit details for the repair and restoration project of the largely destroyed, early-19th-century Saint Petersburg Hotel to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies at the earliest stage possible, given its prominence near the Monastery;
10. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## **160. Kizhi Pogost (Russian Federation) (C 544)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1990

Criteria (i)(iv)(v)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1992-2001)

Total amount approved: USD 38,540

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

1992, 1993, 1994, 2011: ICOMOS missions; 2002: UNESCO/ICOMOS/ICCROM mission and on-site workshop; 2007, 2010 and 2013: World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; July 2014 and October 2015: ICOMOS Advisory missions; March 2018: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Structural integrity issues at the Church of the Transfiguration
- Lack of an integrated management plan addressing the overall management of the World Heritage property
- Tourism development pressures including development of infrastructures
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Housing
- Land conversion
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan
- Marine transport infrastructure

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/544/documents/>. It provides information on measures implemented by the State Party in response to the decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019) as follows:

- The restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration has been completed and a monitoring programme instituted;
- Four different strategies for the restoration of the Church of the Intercession, planned for 2021-2022, have been developed. The State Party will:
  - further develop these proposals,
  - undertake their review and approval by the scientific and restoration council of the Kizhi Open Air Museum,
  - undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on their effect on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property,
  - present the final proposals for review during an Advisory mission;
- The State Party invited an ICOMOS Advisory mission to the property during 2020, but this mission was delayed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic;
- The All-Russian Centre for Wooden Architecture Conservation has been established at the Kizhi Open Air Museum to serve as a scientific and skills centre for the conservation of wooden architecture;
- A Master Plan for the property and the territory of the island on which it is located is still being developed and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review during 2021. Planned interventions, such as the construction of a new entrance, will be delayed until the Master Plan has been reviewed;
- Tourism planning has focussed on local beneficiation and visitor spreading in accordance with the Management Plan, with a special focus on small-scale water transport;
- Health-care facilities for the residents of the buffer zone have been improved. Buffer zone management has been augmented by:
  - The legal protection of the forest areas on the mainland in sight of the property (Government of the Republic of Karelia Order No 239 dated June 11, 2019 regarding the 'Nominally Primary Forests of Zaonezhie'),
  - The development of the Master Plan for the Velikaya Guba settlement, in collaboration with the Kizhi Open Air Museum and local residents, including community, commercial and tourist infrastructure,
  - The establishment of a working group to coordinate activities regarding the sustainable development of the buffer zone and adjacent territories;
- Archival studies and fieldwork have continued, and a manual for the restoration of historical woodwork elements has been published.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party details much progress on all aspects addressed in previous Committee Decisions. The restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration was undertaken to the highest possible standard and is deserving of admiration, as is the carefully considered monitoring programme.

The four alternative restoration strategies for the Church of the Intercession follow a careful scientific approach, including assessment through Impact Assessment protocols, already applied in the restoration process of the Church of the Transfiguration. The commitments to assess the alternative strategies through a HIA that focusses on the impact on the OUV of the property is welcomed. It is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with

the HIA, a description of the alternative strategies and technical details for the restoration, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

The establishment of the working group to coordinate activities on the sustainable development of the property, its buffer zone, and the larger area, should also be welcomed by the Committee.

The invitation for an ICOMOS Advisory mission is acknowledged and the delay of the mission due to the COVID-19 pandemic is noted. The Committee may request that the mission shall be organized as soon as the sanitary conditions will allow it in order to evaluate progress made by the State Party in regard to tourism development and buffer zone planning and developments, including the Master Plan for Velikaya Guba.

Equally commended are:

- the State Party's establishment and funding of the All-Russian Centre for Wooden Architecture Conservation;
- the legal protection of the forest areas on the mainland in sight of the property;
- the continued scientific exploration undertaken by the State Party and the Kizhi Open Air Museum;
- the continued development of a Master Plan for the property and Kizhi Island;
- the continued engagement with tourism management;
- the preservation of cultural and natural heritage in the buffer zone and wider territory.

The efforts taken by the State Party to improve the healthcare conditions of the custodians, the staff of the Kizhi Pogost Museum are acknowledged. The Committee may request the State Party to continue the prioritization to improve the custodian's living conditions.

Tourism and further general developments in the buffer zone and larger territory remain subjects of concern. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to provide more information on the developments, in particular related to the sustainable development in conjunction with traditional livelihoods and land use patterns. Very little detail is provided on developments in the buffer zone, including the Master Plan for the development of the Velikaya Guba settlement. It is, therefore, recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to develop and submit a Sustainable Development Plan for the buffer zone and its wider territory, which focusses on the long-term appropriate settlement of the buffer zone in harmony with and in support of the attributes and OUV of the property.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.160**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.89**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Congratulates the State Party on the completion of the exemplary restoration of the Church of the Transfiguration and on the implementation of a continued monitoring programme of the structures within the boundaries of the property;*
4. *Commends the State Party for:*
  - a) *The establishment of the All-Russian Centre for Wooden Architecture Conservation at the Kizhi Open Air Museum, funded by the State Party,*
  - b) *The legal protection of the forested areas of the buffer zone visible from the property,*
  - c) *The continuous scientific research undertaken by the State Party and the Kizhi Open Air Museum,*

- d) *The ongoing development of a Master Plan for the property and Kizhi Island, taking into consideration the advice of the Advisory Bodies for the configuration of the entrance to the property, as well as the decision to put on hold any construction projects on the island, including the new entrance facility, until agreement has been reached on the details of the Master Plan,*
  - e) *Progress made in tourism planning and development with focus on the beneficiation of the local community according to the Management Plan for the property;*
5. *Welcomes the development of four alternative strategies for the restoration of the Church of the Intercession, including commitments to assess these through a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that focusses on the impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and requests the State Party to submit the HIA, a description of the alternative strategies and technical details for the restoration to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any final decisions on the approach or technical details of the restoration are made;*
  6. *Also welcomes the establishment of a working group to coordinate activities on the sustainable development of the property, its buffer zone and the larger area;*
  7. *Acknowledges the invitation from the State Party for an ICOMOS Advisory mission to visit the property, notes that this mission was delayed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and also requests that the mission shall be organized as soon as the sanitary conditions will allow it in order to evaluate progress made by the State Party in tourism development and buffer zone planning and developments, including the Master Plan for Velikaya Guba;*
  8. *Also acknowledges the efforts taken by the State Party to prioritize improvements to the healthcare facilities of the custodians of the property, the staff of the Kizhi Pogost Museum, and further requests that the State Party continue to prioritize the improvement of the custodians' living conditions;*
  9. *Reiterates its requests to finalize the Sustainable Development Plan for the buffer zone and its wider territory to create sustainable conditions for the long-term appropriate settlement of the buffer zone in harmony with and in support of the attributes and OUV of the property and to submit the plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
  10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

**161. Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church  
(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 426bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (i)(ii)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2006: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2017: Joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Interpretative and visitation facilities (construction proposals in the immediate vicinity of the property that could have an adverse impact on the setting, related vistas and integrity of the property)
- Buildings and Development (continuous development pressure for high-rise buildings that pose changes to skyline and strong visual impact, whilst there is lack of an in-depth visual impact study on possible impacts of development projects)
- Conservation works (possible impact of the Restoration and Renewal project for the Palace of Westminster)
- Management System/Management Plan (lack of coordination within the management system, an approved management plan and need for protection of the immediate surroundings of the property through an adequate buffer zone)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/426/documents/>, and reports on the following issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions:

- Significant progress has occurred with the New London Plan, which sets out policies for London with a strengthened approach to protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), consistent with the findings of the 2017 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission. The London-wide plan requires detailed policies from the 32 borough councils to provide clear guidance and afford priority to protection of OUV. The Westminster City Plan is proceeding through a public examination process. The Plan includes specific policy guidance on the property, including monitoring indicators and a policy requirement to undertake Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). Progress continues with implementation of the 23 recommendations from the 2017 mission. Review and updating of the Management Plan also continues, in conformity with the Westminster City Plan. Historic England has commented on some of the draft Management Plan and further stakeholder engagement and full public consultation will follow. The draft Management Plan will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review. 3D digital mapping systems are being used to facilitate analysis of proposals and their cumulative impacts, having regard to the London View Management Framework;

- The proposed Palace of Westminster 'Restoration and Renewal Programme' involves major refurbishment. An updated Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has been prepared. Engagement has commenced with Westminster City Council and Historic England. The State Party will provide regular updates and will notify the World Heritage Centre at the scoping stage of the HIA process;
- The planning application for the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre has been called in by the Secretary of State. A public inquiry has occurred, to which ICOMOS' Technical Review was submitted, but no decision has yet been made. The Vauxhall Cross/ Vauxhall Island sites proposals have been revised, with a new design by Zaha Hadid Architects, featuring a two-tower scheme, higher than the earlier approved scheme, but with more slender form and massing. This new application has been granted planning permission following a public inquiry. The tall buildings database for the property has been submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- The State Party has considered the Committee's decisions regarding advisory and decision-making processes. Historic England plays a significant role in policy development and decision-making and is a statutory consultee for development proposals. It is not intended to establish a further World Heritage advisory group, as requested by the Committee, as this would duplicate existing sound arrangements.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party continues to respond to Committee decisions and the findings of the 2017 mission, in particular through affording weight to the protection of OUV through national, regional and local planning processes. The New London Plan is generally comprehensive and appropriately focused on OUV, but also recognizes other heritage values. Policies HC2 'World Heritage Sites', HC3 'Strategic and Local Views', and HC4 'London View Management Framework' together provide a sound framework, but the heritage provisions in Chapter 12 'Monitoring' do not adequately address the World Heritage status of the property nor protection of its OUV. It is appropriate that the borough councils must establish plans that incorporate the New London Plan requirements.

The Westminster City Plan also provides for an improved heritage planning and protection of OUV, but appears to require amendments, particularly to address the sensitivity of key potential development sites and to align more closely with the New London Plan. HIAs are required to determine the appropriate scale for new development. The Westminster City Plan and New London Plan would benefit from greater alignment, consistent with recommendations already provided by Historic England (through the document: *Statement of Common Ground Westminster City Council and Historic England – October 2019*) and further review and advice from the Advisory Bodies.

The preparation of a CMP for the Palace of Westminster is welcome, as are assurances about the thoroughness of the process for preparing plans. Noting the long timeframe for this project, the Committee should request that the CMP be submitted for review and reiterate its previous request to receive the detailed proposals including HIAs, in conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, prior to any decisions that would be difficult to reverse.

The revised proposal for the Vauxhall Cross and Vauxhall Island Site is acknowledged as a significant improvement, but, in view of the Committee's specific previous request, it is regretted that the new scheme was subject to a public inquiry and has received consent, without referral to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

Although a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London is strongly supported, the proposed location in Victoria Tower Gardens, would have an adverse impact on the OUV of the property, and would unacceptably compromise a key part of its immediate setting and key views. The Committee should remind the State Party of its previous request to consider alternative locations and/or designs.

The updated database for tall buildings and advice regarding use of 3D modelling systems is welcome. Consistent with the intent of the New London Plan and the Westminster City Plan, these tools should contribute to the identification, prevention and management of the cumulative effects of new tower buildings that affect the OUV of the property (irrespective of the location within or outside the property), as well as assisting with delineation of an appropriate buffer zone.

The State Party should be encouraged to continue to pursue approaches that facilitate the inputs of the Committee and the Advisory Bodies in the national decision-making process. In the absence of a specific World Heritage advisory group reliance on Historic England's advice during decision-making processes

will continue to be vital in addressing the ongoing threat to this property posed by cumulative impacts, especially from high-rise developments.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.161**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.94** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the progress reported by the State Party with the updating of planning and regulatory documents for the property, including addressing and incorporating the findings of the 2017 joint ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission, and the weight afforded to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
4. Notes the significant progress with the New London Plan and the Westminster City Plan, and requests that:
  - a) the monitoring provisions in Chapter 12 of the New London Plan be strengthened to address the World Heritage status of the property and protection of OUV,
  - b) the Westminster City Plan be further reviewed to address key potential development sites, and be more-closely aligned with the New London Plan, consistent with the recommendations of Historic England, and in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to the finalization and adoption of these important documents;
5. Also notes the progress made towards an updated Management Plan for the property and the State Party's confirmation that it will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to adoption;
6. Further notes the information provided by the State Party regarding major conservation works planned through the Restoration and Renewal Project for the Palace of Westminster, and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit details, including the detailed conservation plan for the Palace of Westminster, and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) prepared in conformity with the ICOMOS Guidelines on HIAs for Cultural World Heritage Properties, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, before any decision is taken or any approval is issued;
7. While strongly supporting the concept of a Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in London, re-iterates its serious concerns that the proposed location in Victoria Tower Gardens, would have an unacceptable adverse impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and therefore, also reiterates its request to the State Party to pursue alternative locations and/or designs;
8. Also welcomes the updated database for tall buildings and advice regarding use of 3D modelling systems and also requests the State Party to advise on how these tools may contribute to the identification, prevention and management of the cumulative impacts of new tower buildings that may negatively affect the OUV of the property, and to the delineation of an appropriate buffer zone for the property;
9. Further welcomes the role of the national heritage advisor, Historic England, in all levels of decision-making, but particularly in addressing the ongoing threat to this property posed by cumulative impacts, especially from high-rise development projects in the

*immediate and wider setting of the World Heritage property that may have a negative impact on its OUV, and further requests the State Party to ensure that the legal framework allows for the provided advice to more strongly influence planning decisions in favor of fully protecting the OUV of World Heritage properties;*

10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*



## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 162. Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) (C 1459)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 163. Brasilia (Brazil) (C 445)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1987

Criteria (i)(iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (from 1997-2000)

Total amount approved: USD 42,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1993: technical mission; November 2001: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS mission; March 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing (urban pressure that may affect the original city plan (Plano Piloto) that warranted inscription on the World Heritage List)
- Management systems/ management plan (lack of a Master Plan)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/>

Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2020, the State Party presented a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/445/documents/>, and responds in part to Decision **43 COM 7B.96** of the World Heritage Committee, as follows:

- The Technical Support Agreement between the National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute (IPHAN) and the Government of the Federal District (GDF) was renewed up to June 2024. The Technical Support Group meets regularly to elaborate recommendations, discuss case studies, and respond together to issues involving responsibilities of the institutions comprising the Group;
- The draft Preservation Plan for the Urban Ensemble of Brasilia (PPCUB) was evaluated by IPHAN in December 2019 and is currently being revised by the State Secretariat for Urban Development and Housing (SEDUH), as a priority issue in its Strategic Institutional Plan;
- The elaboration of the Management Plan, using participatory and strategic planning methodologies, is envisaged for 2021;

- The constitution of the Management Committee, including mapping of active and acknowledged agents and organizations in the field of cultural heritage, selection of these organizations through public notice, and establishment of the Management Committee through an IPHAN Ordinance, is envisaged for 2022;
- Two proposals are currently under discussion between IPHAN and the GDF that could have an impact on the conservation of the property. The South Commercial Sector Revitalisation Programme (*Viva Centro!*) envisages the inclusion of housing in 30% of the South Commercial Sector, which implies the change of use of the area. After the current process of public debate, the proposal will be submitted to IPHAN for technical assessment. The second proposal (*Pátio Ferroviário de Brasília*) intends to develop extensive open spaces in the property's buffer zone to house a new neighbourhood that would include collective dwellings, commercial buildings, and public equipment. The State Party acknowledges the concern regarding the verticalization of the new neighbourhood, to be located in a sensitive area near the Monumental Axis of the city;
- The GDF has recently undertaken actions for preserving heritage buildings and sites within the property, including measures to enable the restoration of Oscar Niemeyer's Touring Club to house a museum, and implementing an accessibility and requalification project at South W3 Avenue public spaces;
- Activities related to fostering promotion and interpretation of the property have been carried out by IPHAN in partnership with the GDF, including the signing of a Technical Cooperation Agreement with the local Secretariat of Education, through which books on cultural heritage have been written and distance learning activities offered for public elementary and high school teachers, and holding initial debates for the implementation of the interpretation centre for the property (with the local Secretariat of Tourism) and a series of events, *Jornadas do Patrimônio* (in partnership with the local Secretariats of Education and Culture).

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The renewal of the Technical Support Agreement between IPHAN and the GDF up to June 2024, the actions and projects related to the conservation and eventual restoration of heritage buildings and sites, and the activities regarding promotion and interpretation of the property, are noted with appreciation. The State Party should consider a future institutionalization of the Technical Support Agreement in a broader Management Committee in the longer term.

The Committee may wish to welcome that the PPCUB was evaluated by IPHAN in December 2019 and is currently being revised by the SEDUH. As reported by the State Party, the ongoing revision of the Plan includes taking into account suggestions made by IPHAN and other organizations; it is recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to submit the Plan, once revised, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies.

As for the elaboration of the Management Plan and the constitution of the Management Committee, the State Party reports a timeframe of one and two years, respectively. Even though those actions are acknowledged, it is unclear whether the planned constitution of the Management Committee only in 2022 might delay the full implementation of the plan, once approved. Considering the existence of project proposals that could constitute a potential risk to the preservation of the property, such as those mentioned in the report or others that could come in the future, it is considered that both the elaboration of the Management Plan and the constitution of the Management Committee should be considered priority actions that it would be advisable to envisage by the end of 2021.

The *Viva Centro!* and *Pátio Ferroviário de Brasília* projects are particular cause for concern. Regarding the former, the change of uses and the inclusion of housing in the commercial sector would imply an alteration of the scales described and designed in Lucio Costa's Plano Piloto, one of the main attributes of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The second project, involving land development of unoccupied areas of the buffer zone, would signify an irreversible alteration of part of the original plan of Brasília. The negative impact of this proposal would not be limited to visual aspects, caused by its proximity to the Monumental Axis, but would also result in the further alteration of the relationship between the Plano Piloto and its surrounding natural areas, and increase the pressure on the World Heritage property provoked by an increased number of inhabitants and vehicular traffic; the State Party itself acknowledges concerns about this project. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to halt the ongoing processes of discussion and elaboration of both proposals until a clear management and legal framework, based on the preservation of the OUV and the attributes that convey it, is in place. It is also recommended that the State Party ensure that any major interventions to the

property are first reviewed, as defined in Title IV of IPHAN Ordinance 421/2018, and approved by the Technical Support Group.

Therefore, despite the reported progress regarding the current revision of the PPCUB and the elaboration of the Management Plan, the framework for the conservation of the property is still fragile, and several of the recommendations of the 2012 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission have not yet been implemented, including some of those considered priorities. In this context, proposals such as *Viva Centro!* and *Pátio Ferroviário de Brasília* put in evidence a lack of adequate understanding of the OUV and its attributes, especially the four scales on which Lucio Costa's Plano Piloto is based. Any potential discussion on the alteration of the land uses within the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone should be based on the consideration of the preservation of the attributes of OUV, and any proposal that could put this at risk should be avoided. It is also advised that IPHAN be involved in these projects from the early stages of the proposals.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.163**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.96**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the renewal of the Technical Support Agreement between the National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute (IPHAN) and the Government of the Federal District (GDF), and the activities and projects related to the conservation and eventual restoration of heritage buildings and sites, and to the promotion and interpretation of the property;
4. Notes with satisfaction that the draft Preservation Plan for the Urban Ensemble of Brasília (PPCUB) was evaluated by IPHAN in December 2019 and is currently being revised by the State Secretariat for Urban Development and Housing (SEDUH), and requests the State Party to submit the plan, once revised, together with IPHAN's technical opinion, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Notes that a timeframe for the elaboration of the Management Plan and the constitution of the Management Committee is proposed, but also requests the State Party to envisage the conclusion of both actions by the end of 2021, so that the Management Plan can be approved and put in place;
6. Notes with concern that new projects that could jeopardise the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and its attributes are proposed, urges the State Party to halt the ongoing processes of discussion and elaboration of projects until a clear management and legal framework, based on the preservation of the OUV and the attributes that convey it, is in place, and further requests the State Party to ensure that major interventions to the property are first reviewed as defined in Title IV of IPHAN Ordinance 421/2018 and approved by the Technical Support Group, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of any potential projects that may negatively impact the OUV of the property, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
7. Also urges the State Party to fully implement the recommendations of the 2012 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission;
8. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **164. Churches of Chiloé (Chile) (C 971bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2000

Criteria (ii)(iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2002-2002)

Total amount approved: USD 50,000

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

December 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient delimitation of boundaries
- Construction of a shopping mall in the vicinity of the Castro Church
- Insufficient legal definition of buffer zones and visually sensitive areas of each component
- Commercial development
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Legal framework
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2021, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/971/documents/>. Progress in several conservation issues addressed by the Committee in Decisions **43 COM 7B.97** and **43 COM 8B.51** is presented, as follows:

- In line with the Comprehensive Plan for the Protection of Church's Wider Environment, working groups with the local governments are addressing the establishment of effective buffer zones through their declaration as Typical Zones. Castro Church's surrounding area has been approved by the National Monuments Council (CMN) as a Typical Zone. Regulation of Typical Zones in urban areas is underway through Regulatory Plans. Studies for the regulation of ten Typical Zones in rural areas are in process, and Rilán is being transformed into an urban area. Once all Typical Zones have been declared, the CMN will prepare specific Intervention Guidelines for each;
- A reviewed submission for a minor modification to the boundaries of the buffer zones of Chonchi and Tenaún churches will be prepared;
- A diagnosis of the property's needs and conditions has been concluded as part of the ongoing technical assistance for the elaboration of an Integrated Management Plan;

- An architectural competition for mitigation of the visual impact caused by the construction of the shopping mall in Castro is being discussed with the owner, the municipality and local actors;
- The new institutional framework is implemented through the Regional Ministerial Secretaries, Regional Directorates of the National Cultural Heritage Service and Regional Technical Offices of the CMN. The National Monuments Law is being modified, aiming towards a holistic Law of Cultural Heritage;
- The World Heritage Sites Social Program (PSSPM) and the Cultural Heritage Fund, of which the Churches of Chiloé are beneficiary, continue to operate;
- Conservation and restoration works with an approximate budget of USD 630,000 are to be implemented on the churches of San Juan and Castro (under execution); Ihuac and Detif (in project stage); and Caguach (in project stage with former emergency intervention);
- Multisectoral work commenced for the preparation of a Risk Prevention Plan for the property. The urgency of this action became evident after the fire in the Church of Ancud, part of the Chilota School of Religious Architecture, in January 2020, which emphasized the vulnerability of the property's wooden components;
- An inventory of 152 churches of the Chilota School of Religious Architecture in Wood, covering the whole archipelago was concluded, and an inventory of the religious imagery of the churches within the property is in progress;
- The Chiloé Coastal Edge Plan, which proposes the creation of recreational walkways/vehicular tracks and infrastructure for the riversides, has continued;
- Municipal maintenance works and dissemination activities continue.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

It is noted that the Protection Plan for the Buffer Zones of the Churches of Chiloé, which is being elaborated together by local governments and the community, has been delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Pending procedures include the definition of buffer zones for six churches, and the preparation of guidelines for interventions for the whole serial property.

Regarding the referred back minor boundary modification for four components' buffer zones (Decision **43 COM 8B.51**), the State Party will review the Typical Zone Decrees of Chonchi and Tenaún, as established in 2000 and 2004, after finalizing the complete protection of all the buffer zones of the property. However, the delimitation of the Quinchao and San Juan Typical Zones are not planned to be revised as it is considered that they are sufficient for their rural and geographical context. Considering that the property's landscape is an essential attribute to be preserved, the lack of cooperation regarding the extension of the officially-established Typical Zones, an issue that has been discussed since the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, is regrettable.

Regarding Castro's buffer zone, the significantly-reduced Typical Zone proposed by the working group, which is limited to the blocks immediately surrounding the church, does not include the Meseta of Castro and Palafitos area, and differs considerably from the former proposal reviewed by ICOMOS, was approved by the CMN in July 2019, representing an area of 32.06 ha. Modifications to the Communal Regulatory Plan of Castro regarding the 16-metre maximum height limit for the Meseta and the sea edge were approved in the second half of 2020, but this process has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is recommended that the Committee reaffirm the importance of the effective protection of the whole Meseta that advances into the sea, the sea edge, where important prehistoric remains are found, and the Palafitos area, which is of great vernacular value, which together form exceptional heritage and cultural landscape elements in the wider environment of this church that is considered the "head" of the serial property.

The cooperative development of the Integrated Management Plan for all 16 churches and their buffer zones by the authorities responsible for culture and heritage on a national and regional level is acknowledged and welcomed. The first studies of the plan's diagnosis phase, undertaken through contracted technical assistance, are of excellent quality, and show that, since the property's inscription, the understanding has changed from a focus on the churches and their restoration to a larger protection of the surrounding areas. Cultural and social changes in the traditional maintenance system provided by the community have to be envisaged.

Regarding the traffic issues, it is noted that the construction of the Castro by-pass suffered delays in order to take into consideration archaeological findings, but is now reactivated, with its conclusion programmed for 2023.

Despite the recommendations of the Committee, the 2013 mission and ICOMOS' Technical Reviews, the construction of the Castro shopping mall was completed without significant modifications to its design, and to date, no mitigation measures have been undertaken or reported. It was previously mentioned that potential mitigation measures would be limited to the colours, textures and materials of the façade facing the sea, and the planting of trees, which are considered an insufficient solution. The proposed architecture competition might achieve effective solutions, but it is urgently recommended that the designs and mitigation measures be sent for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to their implementation. It may be considered that the absence of appropriate measures in this regard constitute a threat and a potential danger to the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The preparation of a Risk Management Plan is of fundamental importance considering the great vulnerability of the property's wooden architecture, and should be welcomed. Nevertheless, this Plan was not provided in the SOC report, it might be necessary to request the State Party to submit the document.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.164**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.97** and **43 COM 8B.51**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Notes the progress made by the State Party in the identification and protection of the buffer zones, despite the difficulties related to the Covid-19 pandemic, and requests it to:*
  - a) *Proceed as soon as possible with the submission of the proposed buffer zones of Castro, Achao, Rilán, Aldachildo and Dalcahue churches as a minor boundary modification, and conclude the identification of a buffer zone for Caguach,*
  - b) *Review the delimitation of the buffer zones of Chonchi and Tenaún after finalising the complete protection of all the property's buffer zones,*
  - c) *Consider the Committee's request to review the delimitation of Quinchao and San Juan, both rural areas, to include a larger surrounding landscape and reinforce the setting of these important components through stronger valuation of its topography and vegetation,*
  - d) *Consider the protection of Castro's wider environment and its exceptional heritage and landscape elements;*
4. *Also requests the State Party, after concluding the delimitation of the buffer zones, to complete and submit Intervention Guidelines for all Typical Zones of the property to the World Heritage Centre;*
5. *Welcomes the advances made on the preliminary studies for the Integrated Management Plan (IMP), and urges the State Party to complete the draft IMP and submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies before it is approved;*
6. *Commends the State Party for the emergency structural works carried out in Iglesia Jesús Nazareno of Caguach, the conservation actions to be undertaken on five*

churches (San Juan, Castro, Ichuac, Detif, Caguach), and the efforts to take into consideration the archaeological findings in the construction of the Castro by-pass;

7. Notes with appreciation the ongoing initiatives regarding administrative and legal issues and economic resources, the important inventories on the Chilota School of Religious Architecture and the Religious Imagery of the Property, and, in particular, the preparation of a Risk Management Plan, which is of fundamental importance considering the great vulnerability of the property's wooden architecture, and also requests the State Party to submit the Risk Management Plan for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Reiterates its extreme concern and regret, as expressed in its earlier decisions, particularly Decision **41 COM 7B.59**, that the construction of the shopping mall in Castro was completed without significant modifications to its design and that to date no mitigation measures have been undertaken or reported, and further requests the State Party to urgently submit the designs and mitigation measures selected following the planned architectural competition for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, prior to their implementation;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 165. Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso (Chile) (C 959rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (iii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 2010-2010)

Total amount approved: USD 140,688

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November 2013: ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Emergency situation due to the massive fire of April 2014 (issue resolved)
- Interventions planned at the port, such as the Barón Port and the Prat Dock, as well as for touristic facilities and real estate projects
- Fragmentation of competencies and mandates by sectors and by different levels of government, as well as by the different types of specific protection and use of different areas, which does not allow for the management of the property with respect to its Outstanding Universal Value and within a broader perspective
- Commercial development

- Legal framework
- Management systems/ management plan
- Marine transport infrastructure

*Illustrative material* see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, an executive summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/959/documents>. Supplementary information was submitted by the State Party on 1 February 2021. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in these reports, as follows:

- The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is continuing its Technical Cooperation (TC) and has extended the deadline and timetable initially established. In August 2019, the working team was officially established through the formation of the “Interinstitutional Roundtable for the IDB’s Technical Cooperation with the Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso World Heritage Site”, which worked alongside the TC working group in 2019 and 2020. According to the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach, this working team has been built with a systemic approach focused on communities promoting a dialogue with the property’s environment. Following steps aim at identifying a management model for the World Heritage property and formulating a development strategy and roadmap for its implementation;
- Administrative appeals have been submitted to the Environmental Qualification Resolution that approved the Terminal 2 project. The appeals are under review in line with environmental legislation in place. The construction has therefore not yet begun, and the corresponding mitigation and compensation measures have not yet been implemented;
- The *Parque Barón* (formerly *Paseo del Mar*) project will constitute the main access point to the city’s waterfront, including green areas and recreational and sports facilities. The public contest of ideas has been concluded and construction is expected to begin in 2021;
- The environmental evaluation process of the project “Improving Accessibility to Valparaíso’s Port” for port terminals 1 and 2 is still ongoing. The National Monuments Council, amongst other institutions, has issued technical recommendations regarding the project and its Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), concerning the proposed area of influence, the baseline conditions, the project owner’s prediction and evaluation of the environmental impact on the cultural heritage, and the plan for mitigation, repair and compensation measures presented. These recommendations were included in the Environmental Assessment Service’s consolidated evaluation, issued in November 2020. Recommendations expressed in this evaluation need to be addressed by the project’s responsible party;
- In the framework of the implementation of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage since 2018, regional agencies related to heritage protection and conservation have been established;
- Initiatives implemented with regional funds are continuing to be launched, among them the restoration of Valparaíso’s elevators, the Regional Archive project (in the former Subercaseaux Palace) and the Tassara building project;
- The Enhancing our Heritage (EOH) Toolkit for assessing management effectiveness was applied during 2019 and 2020. The State Party hopes that the exercise’s results will contribute to improving the management system of the property.
- Other initiatives and activities related to the World Heritage property have been implemented, among them the Community Development Plan, the capacity-building project “Strengthening Disaster Risk Management at Three World Heritage Properties in Chile”, the Street Arts Ordinance, the Covid-19 emergency management by the Site Manager and the Valparaíso Invest initiative.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The information provided by the State Party on conservation and restoration of heritage buildings, assessment of management effectiveness, and social programmes is welcome. Also welcome is the continuing Technical Cooperation offered by the IDB, the extension of the TC’s deadlines and timeframe, and the formation of the Interinstitutional Roundtable, which includes several agencies related to the



conservation and management of the property and worked alongside the TC working group in 2019 and 2020. Although these can be considered important steps relating to the establishment of an institutional framework, the identification of a management model appropriate for the property and of a strategy and roadmap for its implementation have not been yet defined. The World Heritage Committee might wish to reiterate its request to the State Party to submit further information on these issues as soon as it becomes available, for review by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies.

It is noted that the construction of the Terminal 2 Project has not yet begun and that administrative appeals against the project are currently under review, in line with the environmental legislation in place. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the State Party to report on the results of that review and on potential further mitigation and compensation measures that may be advised.

The *Parque Barón* (formerly *Paseo del Mar*) will constitute the entrance to the city's waterfront. Taking into account that a contest for a new project has been concluded on the basis of which preliminary images and designs have been drafted, and that the construction is expected to start in 2021, it is suggested that the State Party be requested to provide complete information and documentation on the project for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

Regarding the "Improving Accessibility to Valparaíso's Port" project, it is noted that the National Monuments Council expressed in 2020 several observations related to the impact of the project on the property and on its buffer zone, which were reiterated in the Environmental Assessment Service's consolidated evaluation. These observations will need to be addressed by the project's responsible party to finalize the environmental evaluation process; it is advised that appropriate corrective measures are adopted accordingly.

The establishment of regional agencies dealing with heritage protection and conservation, and the initiatives related to restoration and conservation of elevators and historic buildings, are welcome. It is noted with appreciation that the Enhancing Our Heritage (EOH) Toolkit for assessing management effectiveness has been applied, and the State Party should be encouraged to consider the results of the exercise in the future management of the property. Considering that technical assistance has been delivered for the first development phase of a technological platform for Risk Management, the State Party should be encouraged to continue developing and finalize the Risk Management Plan for the property.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.165**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.98**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Notes with satisfaction that the Interinstitutional Roundtable for the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) Technical Cooperation with the Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso World Heritage property has been established and has been working in alongside the IDB's Technical Cooperation working group in 2019 and 2020, and requests the State Party to submit information on its further developments and results, especially on the identification of a management model and implementation strategy and roadmap, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
4. Encourages the State Party to finalize the Risk Management Plan for the property and submit it for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
5. Notes with appreciation that regional agencies dealing with heritage protection have been established and that initiatives oriented to restoration and conservation of elevators and historic buildings are in place;

6. *Notes that the National Monuments Council has expressed several observations regarding the “Improving Accessibility to Valparaíso’s Port” project and that these will need to be considered by the project’s responsible party before the environmental evaluation process is finalised, and also requests the State Party to ensure that appropriate corrective measures are adopted;*
7. *Also notes the information provided by the State Party on various projects in the buffer zone and vicinity of the property, and further requests the State Party to submit:*
  - a) *Complete information and documentation on the Paseo Barón (formerly Paseo del Mar) for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies,*
  - b) *Information on the progress of the construction process of the Terminal 2 project and on the implementation of mitigation and compensation measures,*
  - c) *Information on any new development project or major intervention that may have an impact on the OUV of the property before any decision is taken that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
8. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

#### **166. Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) (C 1178bis)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

#### **167. Port, Fortresses and Group of Monuments, Cartagena (Colombia) (C 285)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1984

Criteria (iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1988-1999)

Total amount approved: USD 108,800

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May-June 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November-December 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; 2006 Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2017: ICOMOS Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Construction of TRANSCARIBE, a new public transportation system and its impact on the wall (issue resolved)
- Marine transport infrastructure (impact of the harbour public works on the fortifications of Cartagena)
- Management Systems/Management Plan (lack of a Management Plan; lack of a regulatory conservation management system for the property; need for urban regulations for the protected area)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Housing
- Commercial development
- Governance

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285/documents>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented in this report, as follows:

- The State Party reported on the implementation of the Special Management and Protection Plan (PEMP) for the Walled Enclosure and San Felipe Castle (MURCA) since its approval in March 2018. In this context, the Ministry of Culture continues to develop projects that are implemented by the Cartagena de Indias Workshop School (ETCAR), such as the Value Enhancement programme. Details of the projects implemented in the framework of the PEMP have also been provided (e.g. maintenance activities, cultural corridors, free Sunday etc.);
- The termination of the PEMP of the Historic Centre (PEMP CH), which has been formally included in the Local Development Plan 2020-2023, and of the Fortified Landscape of the Bay of Cartagena (PEMP FORTBAHIA), is foreseen for 2022. A "comprehensive proposal workshop" for the PEMP CH is foreseen for the first semester of 2021. In the framework of the development of the PEMP FORTBAHIA, working groups ratified the need to harmonize the existing management instruments, and to conduct carrying-capacity and use studies as well as an emergency repertoire of strategies to adapt to climate change. The State Party reiterated that it needs to finalize all PEMPs before the final boundaries of the property and its buffer zones can be established;
- The strengthening of the Institute of Heritage and Culture of Cartagena (IPCC) is included in the 2020-2023 Development Plan for Cartagena, and the Cartagena municipality is implementing a modernization process with the support of the Administrative Department of the Public Service;
- The Mayor's Office of Cartagena is participating in the "Living Heritage" programme of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), with the support of the Spanish Government;
- The Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the Aquarela Project concluded that the project represents a large or very large impact on the integrity and authenticity of the property. The project remains suspended and the State Party lists several outstanding legal actions concerning the case;
- According to the IPCC, the intervention of the Hotel de Santa Catalina does not affect the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and no current regulations are being infringed.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS

While recognizing the advances the State Party has made in the development and implementation of the PEMPs, it is important to impress the urgency of finalizing these tools, which have been pending for more than a decade, as they constitute the basis of all further conservation and protection.

Following the approval of the PEMP MURCA in March 2018, the Ministry of Culture has begun licensing procedures for urban modifications, which is considered a very important step; however, the submission of more detailed information would have been beneficial. Among the activities undertaken to reinforce the capacities of local authorities, the institutional strengthening of the IPCC was included in the 2020-2023 Development Plan for Cartagena as part of a strategy for a more transparent government. This formalizes the position of the IPCC, but it would be important to clearly define its role in the two outstanding PEMPs, especially its competencies in the management of the property. The participation

of the local government in the “Living Heritage” programme of the IDB is mentioned by the State Party as a way to respond to concerns regarding gentrification and changing social dynamics, public access to the property, and social appropriation of heritage. While this participation is a step in the right direction, it will still be necessary to address these issues in the PEMP.

The HIA on the Aquarela Project concludes that the historic visual relationship of the urban landscape has been fragmented, causing a very large impact on the attribute. Furthermore, it suggests that the expected change in the balance of social and commercial activities in the surrounding area could cause an additional large/very large impact. These conclusions are supported by the Intersectoral Committee for World Heritage and the National Council of Cultural Heritage of Colombia. The HIA highlights that the Aquarela Project in 2015 did not comply with the urban regulations in force at that time; that the proposed modification of the Aquarela Project does not comply with current urban regulations (2019); and that, therefore, the Ministry of Culture does not consider this proposal viable. Several still outstanding legal actions concerning the case are also listed. It is a positive development that the Colombian State Legal Defense Agency has signed an agreement with the Mayor’s Office of Cartagena to advise the District on legal issues, especially those related to the Aquarela Project. However, no timeframe has been given concerning the resolution of this situation. It is recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to avoid all further construction and to work towards the demolition of the existing building as the main mitigation measure.

In response to the Committee’s recommendation to conduct a study on the potential impact of the Hotel Santa Catalina project, the State Party has declared that according to the IPCC, the project will not affect the property’s OUV and that no current regulations are infringed. No further details are presented.

The report submitted by the State Party addresses the Committee’s recommendations in a very direct and concise manner that highlights the main issues. However, it is advised that more detail be requested on the licensing procedures for urban modifications and on the case of the Hotel Santa Catalina, as well as on the implementation of the 2017 ICOMOS Advisory mission recommendations, such as the preparation of a Conservation Plan for the Historic Centre of Cartagena, on which no advances have been reported.

In conclusion, it is noted that the main challenges faced by the property - the lack of adequate management tools and structures and of defined buffer zones with suitable regulations - still persist, but the State Party should be commended for the advances attained during a year complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.167**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.99, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Commends the State Party for the advances achieved despite the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;*
4. *Takes note of the efforts of the State Party to strengthen the capacity of local authorities, particularly the Institute of Heritage and Culture of Cartagena (IPCC), and requests that these efforts be continued by the State Party;*
5. *Also takes note of the implementation of the Special Management and Protection Plan (PEMP) for the Walled Enclosure and San Felipe Castle since 2018, and encourages the State Party to continue these efforts;*
6. *Regrets that the finalization and approval of the other two PEMPs envisaged for the property, as well as the delimitation of the property’s boundaries and establishment of*

buffer zones, have still not been completed, and urges the State Party to finalize and approve the PEMP as an absolute priority;

7. Also requests the State Party to submit a Minor Boundary Modification in accordance with Paragraphs 163-164 of the Operational Guidelines to clarify the limits as follow up to the Retrospective Inventory process and to establish buffer zones, immediately following the completion and approval of the PEMPs for the property;
8. Expresses its strong concern regarding the impact of the Aquarela project on the attributes that sustain the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and also urges the State Party to avoid any further damage and to work towards the demolition of the existing building as the main mitigation measure;
9. Further requests the State Party to address concerns regarding gentrification and changing social dynamics, public access to the property, and social appropriation of heritage in the corresponding PEMPs under development for the property, in order to protect its integrity;
10. Furthermore requests the State Party to implement fully the recommendations of the 2017 ICOMOS Advisory mission, giving particular attention to management effectiveness, management structures, and conservation action plans, including the preparation of a Conservation Plan for the Historic Centre of Cartagena;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## **168. Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá (Panama) (C 790bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1997

Criteria (ii)(iv)(vi)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

March 2009: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; March 2010: on the occasion of the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to Portobelo and San Lorenzo, a technical visit to the Archaeological Site of Panama Viejo and the Historic District was undertaken, as requested by the authorities of Panama; October 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; November 2013: Joint High level World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Severe deterioration of historic buildings
- Conflicting interests of different stakeholders with regard to the use, management and conservation of the historic centre
- Limited capacity for the rehabilitation and maintenance of historic structures
- Deficiencies in the implementation of the legislative framework for protection
- Lack of implementation of clear conservation and management policies for the property
- Demolition of urban ensembles and buildings
- Forced displacement of occupants and squatters
- Urban development projects within the protected area (i.e. Cinta Costera)
- Visual impact of the Cinta Costera project Maritime Viaduct
- Inadequate long-term financial sustainability of conservation and management efforts
- Financial resources
- Housing
- Human resources
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Legal framework

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/>

### Current conservation issues

In 2019, the State Party of Panamá submitted a significant boundary modification of the property "Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo and Historic District of Panamá" (C 790bis), with the aim to transform it, by including several other sites and excluding the component of the Historic District of Panamá, into a serial property under the name of "Colonial Transisthmian Route of Panamá". The World Heritage Committee (Decision **43 COM 8B.40**) deferred the request and asked for a resubmission for its examination in 2022.

On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/790/documents/> and addresses the inscribed World Heritage property, taking as the baseline for the analysis, the current Retrospective Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (Decision **37 COM 8E**). Progress in a number of measures requested by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented, as follows:

- The State Party adopted a new General Law on Culture (2020) and created the Ministry of Culture (MiCultura), thus renovating the national legal and institutional framework for the protection of cultural heritage. Since 15 August 2019, MiCultura is responsible for Panamanian cultural heritage (Act No. 90). The Ministry acts through its National Directorate of Cultural Heritage (DNPC). The entities in charge of the management of the property are, as before, the Oficina del Casco Antiguo (OCA) for the Historic District component, and the Patronato de Panamá Viejo for the Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo component;
- Only one (the Panama Viejo Business Centre) of the two development projects planned inside the buffer zone of Panamá Viejo is currently active. It is being monitored closely by the national authorities, and collaboration with the developers has avoided negative impacts. Reported changes to the drainage system of the Panama Viejo Business Centre are said to protect the remains of the King's Bridge (Puente del Rey);
- A review and evaluation of the Plan for the Sustainable Recovery of the Cultural Landscape of the Archaeological Site of Panama Viejo is foreseen within the framework of a new Panama Viejo Landscape Action Plan;
- Development of a study of the view sheds and a visual corridor analysis for Panama Viejo is proposed;
- In response to the recommendation by the World Heritage Committee concerning the significant boundary modification (**43 COM 8B.40**), the Patronato de Panama Viejo has planned a Natural Disaster and Risk Management Plan and a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan for the Panama Viejo component. For this, and the above-mentioned plans and studies, the terms of reference are included in the annexes of the state of conservation report, but no timeframe for their termination is set;

- A new Land Use Plan of the District of Panama recognizes the property's protection measures, includes them within the planning framework of the metropolitan city, and proposes new protection codes for the immediate surroundings of the components of the property;
- The Archaeological Site Management Plan of Panamá Viejo (2014-2019) is being updated, but no further details are given.
- An Economic Reactivation Plan for Panama City's Casco Antiguo was developed and executed as an inter-institutional effort led by the Ministry of Culture seeking the economic improvement of local business associations, in the interest/in favor of local communities.
- Diverse social initiatives and heritage educational activities were implemented through the Oficina del Casco Antiguo (OCA), ensuring the social participation of young people, women, ethnic groups and vulnerable populations.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The new General Law of Culture (approved by Act 175 of 3 November 2020) establishes, among others, principles, regulations, attributions and commitments of the State. It defines the concepts of the Historic Urban Landscape and lays the legal foundation for the protection of the landscape surrounding historic sites or monuments. In order to better understand the dimension of these changes, it is recommended that the Committee request the submission of the text of the new law, and a detailed explanation of the impact of the institutional and legislative change on the property's protection.

In response to previous Committee requests, the State Party has initiated preliminary work on three-dimensional viewshed and view corridor analysis and concluded that the existing zoning within the buffer zone of Panama Viejo is effective. The elements having a visual impact on the component's integrity are found to be outside the established buffer zone. While the State Party's report shows some photos of the visually discordant elements, it is not always clear what and where they are, since they are not accompanied by a map. This also makes it difficult to assess the reported progress in mitigating the discordant elements of the Archaeological Site environment with the use of strategically located vegetation screens. However, in this context it is noted that the Patronato de Panamá Viejo has planned the review and evaluation of the Plan for the Sustainable Recovery of the Cultural Landscape of the Archaeological Site of Panamá Viejo, implemented since 2014, and to strengthen the plan by developing a Panamá Viejo Landscape Action Plan.

The proposed Land Use Plan of the District of Panama aims at including the property's components within the planning structures of the metropolitan city, proposes new protection codes for the components' immediate surroundings, and protects elements of natural value. Such a planning tool can be very important for the protection of the integrity of the property and its wider setting. However, it is still pending approval by the municipal authorities. No consideration has been given to the possibility of extending the buffer zone of the Panamá Viejo component, as suggested by the Committee. At this point, it is unclear if the plan is a valid substitute for the recommended buffer zone extension since no detailed information on the plan was made available.

While the reported advances indicate the efforts of the State Party to develop a more integral concept of protection, no detailed information was offered regarding ongoing development projects that have the potential to impact on the property values, both inside the buffer zone of Panamá Viejo (Panamá Viejo Business Centre) and outside (Costa del Mar ocean front development).

It is noted with regret that the Committee's recommendation to develop and fully implement a Heritage Impact Assessment approach into the management system was not taken up by the State Party. Neither was the extension of the Historic District buffer zone, an initiative proposed by the Oficina del Casco Antiguo (OCA), the Dirección Nacional de Patrimonio Histórico (DNPH) and the Municipality, and welcomed by the Committee.

In conclusion, the State Party should be commended for the very positive advances it has made in a year complicated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It should be encouraged to continue the implementation of social and economic initiatives, such as the Economic Reactivation Plan for Panama City's Casco Antiguo in order to support the local communities facing the present context. Nevertheless, many reported activities and planning tools have no clear timeframe. The State Party should urgently start to approve and apply the more integral concept of heritage protection, expressed through many of the new planning tools, for which the legal bases are being created with the new General Law of Culture and the Land Use Plan for the District of Panamá.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.168**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions 37 COM 8E, **37 COM 7B.100**, **40 COM 8B.34**, **41 COM 7B.63**, and **43 COM 7B.101**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016), 41st (Krakow, 2017), and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions, respectively,
3. Welcomes the State Party's efforts and social initiatives undertaken, including the *Economic Reactivation Plan with the aim to support local communities*, and encourages the authorities to continue its implementation to the extent possible;
4. Commends the State Party for the renovation of the legal and institutional framework, and requests the submission of the relevant documentation (texts of the laws) and an explanation of the impact of these changes on the protection of the property;
5. Also commends the State Party for its close collaboration with the developers of building projects, and also encourages the State Party to strengthen this collaboration and community outreach, especially in view of the legal changes that will entail a more inclusive heritage protection;
6. Also requests the State Party to finalize the study of the viewsheds and a visual corridor analysis for Panama Viejo;
7. Further requests the State Party to finalize, approve and submit to the World Heritage Centre for review, together with descriptions of their impact on the property and a timeframe for their finalization, the following planning tools:
  - a) *The Panama Viejo Landscape Action Plan*,
  - b) *The Natural Disaster and Risk Management Plan*,
  - c) *The Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan*,
  - d) *The updated Archaeological Site Management Plan of Panama Viejo*,
  - e) *The Land Use Plan for the District of Panama*;
8. Notes with regret that no information has been offered concerning the development and implementation of a Heritage Impact Assessment procedure as a standard for interventions on cultural heritage in wider settings, and furthermore requests the State Party to explore its inclusion, for example, in the *Land Use Plan for the District of Panama* and the *updated Archaeological Site Management Plan of Panama Viejo*;
9. Requests moreover the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.



## 169. Historic Centre of Lima (Peru) (C 500bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1988

Criteria (iv)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 4 (from 1989-2013)

Total amount approved: USD 94,500

For details, see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

1994: Systematic monitoring report UNDP/UNESCO; August 1998: expert mission; March-April 2003: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2017: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Fires in 1998 and 2001 (issue resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan (formalization of the procedures to set up a Management Coordination Unit to implement the Strategic Plan; revision of the Master and Strategic Plans)
- Housing
- New development projects within the Historic Centre including urban transportation systems (Corredor Segregado and subway system) and interventions in historical buildings
- Ground transport infrastructure (development of the cable car project for tourism purposes)
- Management activities (unsuitable interventions)

Illustrative material see page <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/>

Current conservation issues

On 3 December 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/500/documents/>. Progress in a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee at its previous sessions is presented, as follows:

- The High Capacity Segregated Corridor (COSAC) is now the responsibility of the Urban Transport Authority (ATU). Terms of Reference for Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) for seven stations are being finalized by the ATU, and PROLIMA recommends including Central and Caquetá Stations. The HIAs and mitigation measures should be completed in 2021;
- Training courses and developed proposals were offered concerning a “Directive for the Development and Evaluation of the HIA Studies on World Heritage Sites”, to be aligned with the relevant regulations;
- The HIA of Metro Line 2 (which crosses the buffer zone) needs adjustments. An HIA will be carried out for Metro Line 3 (which crosses the World Heritage property). Once completed, both HIAs will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre;
- Interinstitutional working groups addressing security (Special Criminal Investigation Command); irregularities (Public Ministry and Judiciary); traditional knowledge (Ministry of Education); and special regulations for heritage properties (Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation) were activated;
- The Master Plan of the Historic Centre (2019-2029, with a view to 2035) and corresponding administrative regulations were approved in December 2019 (Ordinances 2194 and 2195), following

ICOMOS' September 2019 Technical Review. The Plan is being implemented through interinstitutional agreements;

- Plans to safeguard traditional festivities recognized as Intangible Cultural Heritage are being developed;
- Within the framework of the Urban Renewal Programme, a Disaster Risk Management Plan and Peruvian Blue Shield Committee were established. Rehabilitation interventions address pedestrianisation and road improvement; preventive shoring of at-risk buildings; restoration of green areas and sculptural heritage; projects for recovery (acquisition and restoration) of four emblematic buildings in danger; and renewal projects (Rimac River Special Landscape Project) and programmes that involve the private sector. A feasibility study of a Reconversion Project for the existing ecological systems in Rimac was developed;
- Restoration of the exterior walls and frontal public space of the Convent San Francisco, including recovery of many covered mural paintings, has an assigned budget and is under review by the Ministry of Culture, which did not observe any recent detrimental interventions in its 2019 report;
- The previous proposal for the cable car to Cerro San Cristobal has been discarded. The current proposal considers a system closer to the hill. The Ministry of Culture concludes that the proposed layout causes less impact and therefore is feasible, although needing revision. Before further development, an HIA is required for evaluation by the Ministry of Culture;
- The State Party is promoting the formation of an inter-institutional working group to define a Minor Boundary Modification proposal that will include 6 zones comprehending buildings of great heritage value within the property boundaries, to be presented in 2021;
- PROLIMA was constituted as the Executing Unit for Public Investment;
- Other concerning issues are reported, such as clandestine interventions in historic buildings, potential impact of wholesale trade and street markets, disproportionate increase in the value of the land, precarious housing, and lack of incentives for urban renewal.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM*

The State Party has attained developments in various issues. HIA management has been improved through training courses and specific studies regarding proposals for regulations on this issue. Pending HIA studies and mitigation measures are expected for COSAC, Metro line 2, and Metro line 3, but no outcomes are presented regarding the upgrading and extension of Linea Amarilla, and the Committee may wish to request the State Party to provide updated information in this regard.

It is recommended that the Committee welcome the approval of the Master Plan of the Historic Centre (2019-2029) and its regulations, which detail future actions, some of which are already under implementation. However, although climate change and disaster risk management issues are addressed in the new Master Plan, this remains a challenge to be faced, considering threats such as El Niño. As advised in the ICOMOS technical review, the general proposals and guidelines relating to social and economic development included in the Master Plan should be implemented through an integrated Social-Economic Development Plan. This plan should consider the integration of the Historic Centre within the Metropolitan Area and address the serious housing and economic conditions which prevail in a significant portion of the Historic Centre, aiming towards its sustainable development and considering international preservation and intervention criteria. The Urban Renewal Programme should be integrated within this plan, which should implement social economic housing policies and the proposed housing recovery actions.

The Technical School of Traditional Knowledge, to open in 2021, will provide a higher understanding of heritage values, contribute to the safeguarding of immaterial knowledge, and provide employment opportunities. The State Party should consider maintaining regular working groups that also include representatives of civil organizations from the social, economic and technical sectors of the community to contribute to deliberations on the development of the Historic Centre of Lima.

Regarding the Urban Renewal Program, it is advised that the Committee request that the renewal projects that could have an adverse impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), such as the project for reconversion of empty lands in the district of Rimac and the Rimac River Special Landscape Project, be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

The restoration project for Convent San Francisco is being reviewed by Ministry of Culture. An important issue is the Ministry's decision not to reconstruct the atrium's closure wall that was demolished in 1871. The detrimental unauthorized interventions reported by the 2017 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission were not observed by the Ministry of Culture in their 2019 inspection report, which reported that no recent interventions were evident. Parts of the property are in a poor state of conservation and need restoration. The proposal for the gallery roof of the second level of the main cloister is being finalized. It is recommended that the State Party ensure careful observation of the international preservation and intervention criteria and submit the final restoration project, as well as the preliminary project for the enhancement of San Francisco Square, to the World Heritage Centre for review.

The decision to discard the previous proposal of the cable car to the Cerro San Cristobal in Rimac should be welcomed. The Metropolitan Municipality of Lima requires an HIA of the revised proposal to be submitted to the Ministry of Culture for evaluation before further development of the project; it is recommended that this HIA is also submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review.

The State Party should be encouraged to pursue its proposal to establish an inter-institutional working group to define a Minor Boundary Modification proposal that will include within the property's boundaries a number of monuments that are currently located in its buffer zone, as recommended by the 2017 Advisory mission.

The Municipality of Lima has begun to strengthen PROLIMA, by constituting it as the Executing Unit for Public Investment in 2019. However, it is recommended that the State Party consider providing PROLIMA with oversight functions, which are required for a role as an autonomous authority.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.169**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.102**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Acknowledges the efforts of the State Party to address the recommendations of the Committee and of the 2017 Advisory mission, and invites the State Party to continue the implementation actions that are in progress;*
4. *Also acknowledges the training courses and advances to improve Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) management and its regulations, but notes with concern that, despite repeated requests, the HIAs and mitigation measures for the complex transportation system that is being implemented, which may have a considerable impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, have not been concluded;*
5. *Reiterates its request that appropriate HIAs be undertaken for all components located within the property or its buffer zone and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies once they become available, particularly regarding:*
  - a) *The conclusion and mitigation measures for the High-Capacity Segregated Corridor (COSAC) stations of Ramon Castilla, Tacna, Unión, Colmena, 2 de Mayo, Quilca, España, Central and Caquetá,*
  - b) *The conclusion of the stations of Metro Line 2,*
  - c) *The development of the stations of Metro Line 3,*
  - d) *The Linea Amarilla road upgrading and extension;*
6. *Welcomes the approval of the Master Plan of the Historic Centre 2019-2029 (with a view to 2035), and the implementation of Interinstitutional Working Groups, and strongly*

*recommends that the State Party maintain regular working groups that include stakeholders representing civil organizations from the social, economic and technical sectors regarding their contribution on the implementation of the Master Plan and the development of the Historic Centre of Lima and to consider the integration of the Urban Renewal Programme within an integrated Social-Economic Development Plan;*

7. *Notes the development of the Urban Renewal Programme, and requests that the projects that represent an impact on the property's OUV are submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review, such as the project for reconversion of empty lands in the district of Rimac and the Rimac River Special Landscape Project;*
8. *Also notes the ongoing restoration works for Convent San Francisco, also recommends careful observation of the international preservation and intervention criteria, and also requests the State Party to submit the final restoration project, as well as the preliminary project for the enhancement of San Francisco Square, to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
9. *Also welcomes the decision to discard the previous proposal of the cable car to the Cerro San Cristobal, and further requests the State Party to submit the new proposal and its HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review, before further development of the project;*
10. *Encourages the State Party to submit a Minor Boundary Modification proposal that will include within the property's boundaries a number of monuments that are currently located in its buffer zone, as recommended by the 2017 Advisory mission;*
11. *Strongly encourages the State Party to constitute an autonomous authority and, given its large experience, consider PROLIMA for this role;*
12. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## **MIXED PROPERTIES**

### **AFRICA**

#### **170. Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho, South Africa) (C/N 985bis)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

#### **171. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (C/N 39bis)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## **LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

### **172. Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru) (C/N 274)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## **NATURAL PROPERTIES**

### **AFRICA**

#### **173. Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon) (N 407)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

#### **174. Sangha Trinational (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo) (N 1380rev)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

#### **175. Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley (Kenya) (N 1060rev)**

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List* 2011

*Criteria* (vii)(ix)(x)

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger* N/A

*Previous Committee Decisions* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/documents/>

##### *International Assistance*

Requests approved: 3 (from 1999-2006)

Total amount approved: USD 45,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/assistance/>

##### *UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

Total amount granted: USD 17,283 from UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa (2015-2016)

##### *Previous monitoring missions*

N/A

##### *Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports*

- Governance
- Housing
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems/ management plan
- Renewable energy facilities (issue resolved)

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/>

##### *Current conservation issues*

On 29 January 2020, the State Party submitted a progress report, and an updated report on the state of conservation of the property on 11 January 2021. Both reports and their annexes are available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1060/documents/>, and reports as follows:

- The management plans for Lake Elementaita Wildlife Sanctuary and Lake Nakuru National Park are still being developed but the Lake Bogoria National Reserve Management Plan 2019-2029 was finalized in November 2020 through wide community participation, including with the Endorois Welfare Council, which led to their endorsement of the final Plan;
- The boundary of Lake Elementaita Wildlife Sanctuary is being redrawn due to the changes in its riparian area caused by unexplained water level rises in all the central Rift Valley lakes. Following the completion of this process, which will include public engagement, any infrastructure that encroaches into the riparian area of the lake will be removed. A detailed map, a zonation scheme and a proposal for a minor boundary modification will be submitted upon completion;
- Protection of the area between Lakes Elementaita and Nakuru have been strengthened through increased patrolling and strengthened law enforcement activities;
- The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) licence for the 300 km long Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu power transmission line proposed near Lake Elementaita was awarded in 2010. It was subject to further rapid ecological assessment in 2019, which led to the development of mitigation measures to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The section between Naivasha and Elementaita has been constructed but the power has not yet been switched on.

On 25 September 2019 and on 17 January 2020, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party requesting more information regarding the construction of the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu transmission line project on the edge of Lake Elementaita. As a response, the State Party has submitted along with its State of conservation report a draft rapid ecological assessment report dated June 2019 and an environmental technical report dated October 2020.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The unusually high water levels in the property are leading to loss of riparian habitat and changes in the water composition and quality. It has resulted in destruction of infrastructure and affected communities living close by. Heavy rainfall is understood to have been the main cause, potentially driven by the warming of the Indian Ocean as a result of climate change. These impacts are further exacerbated by the increasing deforestation, sewage loading and degradation of the catchments. It will be important to monitor the impact on the OUV of the property and to consider potential adaptation measures as well as the development of a wastewater management strategy.

The finalization of the Lake Bogoria Management Plan through wide community participation including the Endorois Welfare Council is welcomed. Nevertheless, the proposed zonation scheme raises concerns. In its Decisions **39 COM 7B.5** and **41 COM 7B.21**, the Committee had requested the State Party to develop and implement strict and clear regulations to prohibit developments in close proximity to fragile habitats and in the critical buffer zone to the property. The new zonation scheme permits the construction of ecolodges along approximately half of the lake's shoreline, and permits any type of visitor facility in the surrounding buffer zone. While noting that each development will be subject to prior approval, it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request that no development be permitted near sensitive areas that may negatively impact the property's OUV.

The State Party's participatory work to redefine the boundaries of Lake Elementaita to ensure the inclusion of riparian habitat in response to the lake level rise is appreciated. While noting the increased resource allocation for patrolling and law enforcement in the area between Lakes Elementaita and Nakuru, at the time of inscription in 2011 the Committee requested the State Party to improve the ecological connectivity between these components through wildlife corridors such as the Soysambu Conservancy. The proposed minor boundary modification process should therefore consider the extension and formalization of the buffer zone between the lakes to restore connectivity and further strengthen their protection, in consultation with local stakeholders and rightsholders.

The revised management plans for Lakes Elementaita and Nakuru should reflect any changes or findings from the boundary modification exercise, also ensuring that the sensitive areas in all components of the property are protected, and that there is a co-ordinated management system of the three components in accordance with Paragraph 114 of the Operational Guidelines.

The June 2019 rapid ecological assessment concludes that the proposed transmission line traverses key habitats of critically endangered species of birds and mammals, demonstrating a need to explore alternative routes where necessary, and to engage bird experts considering migration routes. While a subsequent Environmental Technical Report on the potential effects of the transmission line on birds and other biodiversity concludes that, electrocution or collision of birds is highly unlikely based on the



experience with the existing power line, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN remain concerned about the potential impacts of the new power line on bird mortality. Third party information document frequent bird and wildlife mortality along the old, existing transmission line due to collisions and electrocutions.

The World Heritage Centre was also informed by the Secretariat of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), a treaty developed under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), that it had contacted the State Party on 28 January 2020 to raise concern that the powerline construction could be non-compliant with the provisions of the Agreement in relation to protection of key sites of importance for migratory waterbirds and prevention of unnecessary causes of mortality. In response, the State Party invited an AEWA on-the-spot appraisal mission, not yet undertaken due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The AEWA Secretariat suggests the World Heritage Centre or IUCN to participate as an observer in this mission.

Noting all of the above, and that the construction of the section between Naivasha and Elementaita has already been finalized, the State Party should be urgently requested to halt any further development until the AEWA mission has taken place and its recommendations made available.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.175**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **35 COM 8B.6**, **39 COM 7B.5**, **41 COM 7B.21** and **43 COM 7B.33**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011), 39th (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with concern the impacts of the unusually high water levels in all components of the property, which is attributed to heavy rainfall, potentially as a result of climate change and exacerbated by the increasing deforestation, sewage loads and degradation of the catchments, and requests the State Party to monitor the impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to consider potential adaptation measures and to develop a wastewater management strategy;*
4. *Welcomes the finalization of the Lake Bogoria National Reserve Management Plan 2019-2029, developed through wide community participation including with the Endorois Welfare Council, but also notes with concern the proposed zonation scheme, which could permit the construction of ecolodges along approximately half of the lake's shoreline and allow any type of visitor facility in the reserve's buffer zone, and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop and implement strict and clear regulations to prohibit developments in close proximity to fragile habitats and in the critical buffer zone to the property;*
5. *Notes with appreciation the State Party's work to redefine the boundaries of Lake Elementaita Wildlife Sanctuary to ensure the inclusion of riparian habitat in response to the lake level rise, in consultation with the community and stakeholders, and its commitment to developing a proposal for a minor boundary modification;*
6. *Specifically recalling Decision **35 COM 8B.6** requesting the State Party to improve the ecological connectivity between the Lake Nakuru and Elementaita components through wildlife corridors such as the Soysambu Conservancy, encourages the State Party to strongly consider the possible extension and formalization of the buffer zone between Lakes Elementaita and Nakuru to restore connectivity and further strengthen their protection, in consultation with local stakeholders and rights-holders;*

7. *Also requests the State Party to integrate any changes or findings from the boundary modification exercise in the revision of the management plans for Lake Elementaita Wildlife Sanctuary and Lake Nakuru National Park, and also ensure sensitive areas are protected from developments;*
8. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure a co-ordinated management system of the three components of the property in accordance with Paragraph 114 of the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Further notes with concern that the construction of the Olkaria-Lessos-Kisumu power transmission line proposed near Lake Elementaita has proceeded while there remains significant concern for the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, urges the State Party to halt any further development of the transmission line until the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) on-the-spot appraisal mission has taken place and its recommendations made available, and encourages the State Party to continue its consultation with the Secretariat of AEWA, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in addressing this issue;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2022**, 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 45th session in 2022.*

**176. iSimangaliso Wetland Park (South Africa) (N 914)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**177. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia, Zimbabwe) (N 509)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

**178. Mana Pools National Park, Sapi and Chewore Safari Areas (Zimbabwe) (N 302)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## ARAB STATES

### 179. Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay – Mukkawar Island Marine National Park (Sudan) (N 262rev)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2016

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (in 2010)

Total amount approved: USD 29,500

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

#### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Financial resources: Need to continue to increase financial resources and commit to maintain ongoing sustainable financing
- Lack of high quality resolution maps that clearly define the boundaries of the property and the buffer zone (resolved)
- Management systems/ management plan: Need to update the management plan for Sanganeb Marine National Park and Dungonab Bay to complete the preparation of an integrated management framework for the whole property
- Need to establish a code of conduct including formal rules and regulations for all dive operators

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 30 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/262/documents/> and reports the following:

- The Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property was completed and adopted by the Wildlife Conservation General Administration (WCGA) at a validation workshop in September 2019. Its implementation was delayed due to financial constraints and COVID-19-related closures;
- Regarding the provision of further resources for the management of the property, the economic and political situation in Sudan during the Transitional Period has affected the budget and proposed plans. However, the monthly budget for the property has been tripled and funding opportunities are being explored including GEF-UNDP, Global Fund for Coral Reefs, etc.;
- Close relations have been established with local dive operators and stakeholders. Formal rules, regulations and fees for divers and visitors have been set up and awareness meetings held with local dive operators. Meetings held with the Tourism Department/Red Sea and Ministry of Environment resulted in the agreement of a substantial entry fee (diving fee) to support the management, protection and surveillance of the property. Local dive operators and tourism companies will provide financial support starting from the new January 2021 season. Fines to avoid violations were established;

- Several workshops were held in 2018 and 2019, including a workshop with experts from marine World Heritage sites in Africa and a management effectiveness training organized by IUCN, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), and the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the Sudanese National Commission for UNESCO, WCGA and the Red Sea University;
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the property was partially closed, there were no visitors and all tourism activities including diving were cancelled. Furthermore, no fishing was undertaken by the local communities, which had a negative economic impact. The majority of staff were forced to leave the property, with few remaining to carry out administrative work. During this period, no monitoring activities were carried out;
- The declaration of Sha'ab Roumi as Sudan's third Marine Protected Area (MPA) is close to finalisation, with plans to start the process to include it as part of the property.

On 11 June 2018, the World Heritage Centre sent a letter to the State Party regarding reported permissions given by the Red Sea State for the development of a resort inside the limits of the property, near the pristine marsa of Khor Shinab. No official information has been received to date.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The finalization and adoption of the IMP for the property by the Wildlife Conservation General Administration is positive and to be welcomed. It is regrettable that the implementation of the IMP has been delayed as a result of financial constraints and difficulties caused by the closure of the property due to COVID-19. It will be important for the State Party to submit the finalized IMP to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible, initiate its implementation, and secure adequate funding in this regard. Other identified international funding sources should also be pursued further.

Recalling the previously reported concerns regarding activities of international dive operators who are reported to cause damage to coral reefs, disturbance to wildlife, and negative impacts on visitor experience, it is positive that progress has been made to establish formal rules, regulations and fees for dive operators in consultation with the dive operators and authorities. Noting the reported financial constraints, the establishment of a regular income stream from tourism, through the new fee, has the potential to help facilitate ongoing funding for the management of the property, once tourism is able to resume. It is unclear whether a formal code of conduct has been finalised as part of the new regulations and this should be clarified. Noting that no monitoring was carried out during COVID-19 restrictions, it will also be important that effective compliance measures to avoid violations, such as fines and regular patrolling efforts to monitor vessels operating within the property, are effectively implemented once tourism is able to resume. The State Party is encouraged to continue its progress in this regard.

It is positive that various expert workshops were held in 2018 and 2019 to support the capacity building of staff, raise awareness of World Heritage values, promote best practice principles and translate the Marine World Heritage Best Practice Guide into Arabic. It is recommended that the State Party implement the expertise shared and continue building the management capacity for the property through training and knowledge exchange opportunities.

Regarding the identification of additional areas of potential Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the State Party's intention to nominate such areas for inclusion within the property, the planned declaration of Sha'ab Roumi as Sudan's third MPA is noted. Any proposed modifications should be carried out in line with the procedures for boundary modification and/or re-nomination as per the *Operational Guidelines*, seeking prior technical advice from IUCN if required.

It is regrettable that the State Party has not provided information on the reported permissions given by the Red Sea State for the development of a resort inside the limits of the property, as it could directly affect the OUV of the property. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the State Party to provide further information on this issue recalling Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.179**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*

2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.99**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the finalization and adoption of the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the property by the Wildlife Conservation General Administration, however regrets that its implementation has been delayed due to financial constraints and COVID-19-related closure of the property, and requests the State Party to submit the finalized IMP to the World Heritage Centre, and ensure its implementation, including to secure adequate funding, as soon as possible;
4. Also recalling the reported activities of international dive operators causing damage to coral reefs, disturbance to wildlife, and negative impacts on visitor experience, also welcomes the progress made to establish formal rules and regulations for dive operators, fines, and awareness raising activities in consultation with local dive operators and stakeholders, and also requests the State Party to continue its efforts, including by:
  - a) Establishing a clear code of conduct for diving operations in the property,
  - b) Establishing effective communication with dive operators, both national and international, to raise awareness about the established rules and regulations and encourage best practice in line with international standards,
  - c) Establishing appropriate mechanisms, such a licensing system, to avoid violations,
  - d) Ensuring regular patrolling to monitor any vessels operating within either component of the property;
5. Notes with appreciation the various expert workshops held in 2018 and 2019, and encourages the State Party to implement the expertise shared and to continue building the management capacity for the property through training and knowledge exchange opportunities;
6. Also notes with appreciation the planned declaration of Sha'ab Roumi as Sudan's third Marine Protected Area (MPA) and the intention to propose this for inclusion as part of the property, and reiterates that any proposed extensions should follow the appropriate procedures for boundary modification and/or re-nomination as per the Operational Guidelines, and also encourages the State Party to seek technical advice from IUCN if required;
7. Also regrets that the State Party has not provided further information on the reported permissions given by the Red Sea State for the development of a resort inside the limits of the property, and urges the State Party to provide information on this issue, and to inform the World Heritage Centre of any intention to undertake or authorize new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, before making any decision that would be difficult to reverse, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## ASIA-PACIFIC

### 180. Greater Blue Mountains Area (Australia) (N 917)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 181. South China Karst (China) (N 1248bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2007

Criteria (vii)(viii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1248/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (2004)

Total amount approved: USD 20,100

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1248/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Management systems/management plan (Property-wide management plan not yet finalized; Actions to manage tourism, water quality, agricultural and urban development impacts not implemented)
- Governance (Integrated governance arrangements not implemented)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1248/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1248/documents/> and reports the following progress:

- Through joint efforts from the site administrations of the seven component parts of the property, the 2016-2025 *Conservation and Management Plan of South China Karst World Natural Heritage Site* (CMP-SCK) is being implemented and closely monitored, leading to positive outputs in environmental protection, tourism management, community development, publicity and education, and resource conservation;
- Continued efforts to address water pollution, e.g. the establishment of a wastewater treatment system, have shown an improvement in water quality in certain locations within the property;
- A visitor carrying capacity has been set to mitigate potential threats from tourism, and scrutiny of tourism facilities has led to the relocation of some visitor centres to outside of the property;
- Ecological restoration of agricultural land within the property has been advanced in the framework of the CMP-SCK;

- Remote sensing for the monitoring of the property is being more widely used, e.g. to detect illegal construction and ecological damage;
- The Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway crossing the Buffer Zone of Libo Karst is under construction and expected to complete by December 2023. The Environmental Management Plan is being followed to ensure that there is no negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The anticipated increase in visitor numbers upon completion will be managed in line with the carrying capacity limits;
- Any future relocation of communities within the World Heritage property will be carried out in strict compliance with the 2015 Sustainable Development Policy and relevant international standards.

*Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

Positive progress is being reported with the implementation of the CMP-SCK through the administrative organizations of the seven component parts of the property, established following an institutional reform at the national, provincial and site levels in 2018. The results reported to date are welcomed, notably the improved water quality and the use of remote sensing to further support the monitoring and management of the property.

The measures taken to address any negative impact on the buffer zone of the Libo Karst component due to the Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway, currently under construction, are noted. However, no progress is reported on efforts to address the potential impact of invasive alien species, as requested by the Committee.

Recalling the Committee's previous concerns about tourism impacts on this property, it is positive that a visitor carrying capacity limit has now been set, and that the operation of the Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway will be managed within these limits. It remains important for the State Party to also ensure that the distribution of visitor pressure is monitored and sustainably managed. Tourism is a major source of income for local communities, including Wukeshu, and therefore it remains critical that ongoing development balances the importance of sustainable, tourism-based livelihoods for local communities against the potential for negative impacts associated with tourism on the property's OUV. The State Party is therefore encouraged to seek advice from the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tourism/>) and prepare a Sustainable Tourism and Development Strategy for the property.

It is welcome that the State Party has formulated strict working procedures and steps to achieve prior consent, effective consultation, fair compensation, access to social welfare and skills training, and the right to retain traditional culture and customs amongst populations under the relocation programme in Wukeshu Village. The State Party's commitment to ensuring that any future relocation within a World Heritage property will occur strictly in compliance with the 2015 *Policy Document on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention* and relevant international standards should be welcomed.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.181**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.4** adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's continued progress towards an integrated, coordinated management system for the property, including the ongoing implementation of the 2016-2025 Conservation and Management Plan of South China Karst World Natural Heritage Site (CMP-SCK) and the positive results reported to date;*
4. *Notes with appreciation the measures taken by the State Party to address any negative impact on the buffer zone of the Libo Karst component from the Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway, currently under construction, but reiterates its request to the State Party*

to address potential impacts of the project, including invasive alien species, on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

5. Noting that tourism is a major source of income for local communities, including Wukeshu, requests the State Party to ensure the sustainable development of the tourism industry at the property, which mitigates the potential for negative impacts on the property's OUV;
6. Also notes with appreciation that a visitor carrying capacity was established for the property and that the operation of the Guiyang-Nanning High-speed Railway will be managed within these limits, and also requests the State Party to ensure that the distribution of visitor pressure is monitored and sustainably managed;
7. Also welcomes the efforts to formulate strict working procedures in order to positively engage with local communities during relocation programmes in Wukeshu Village and the State Party's commitment to adhering to the 2015 Policy Document on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention and other relevant international standards in case of any future relocation;
8. Encourages the State Party to seek advice from the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme and prepare a Sustainable Tourism and Development Strategy for the property, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

## **182. Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan Protected Area (China) (N 1083bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

April 2006: UNESCO/IUCN joint Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (Major hydropower development on all main rivers and related infrastructure)
- Mining (Within and near the property)



- Management systems/management plan (Absence of overall serial property-wide management system and plan including tourism planning; Unclear property boundaries and absence of demarcation)
- Major visitor accommodation and associate infrastructure (Tourism infrastructure conflicting with conservation objectives)
- Commercial hunting (Apparent decline in wildlife populations suspected to be a result of trade in wildlife and wildlife derivatives)

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 26 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1083/documents/> and provides reports on the following:

- Mineral exploration and extraction activities in the property and its buffer zone continue to be suspended. Surveillance of illegal activities, including mining, has been strengthened, notably through the introduction of the Operation Green Shield Storm (OGSS);
- The institutional reforms initiated in 2018 were completed at the national and provincial levels in 2019 but are still ongoing at the prefectural and county levels. The Ministry of Natural Resources is now responsible for ecological restoration and has released plans and guidelines for restoration implementation. Yunnan Provincial Forestry and Grassland Administration is responsible for on-the-ground implementation. Active restoration measures are only implemented at a few selected post-mining sites where secondary disasters may occur. All other sites will be left to regenerate naturally by prohibiting human access;
- Efforts to improve the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is continuing, but additional technical support will also be sought via the World Heritage Centre;
- Formulation of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) of the property will resume once the institutional reform is completed;
- The notice on the Directives on Establishing the Protected Natural Areas System with National Parks as the Mainstay (PNAS-NPM) was issued in June 2019. Once fully established, an overarching management effectiveness evaluation system will be applied to the whole property;
- Hydropower planning and construction remain unchanged and continue on the Lancang and Jinsha Rivers. There is currently no plan to develop hydropower projects on the Nujiang River;
- Concerns regarding impacts of hydropower and related infrastructure projects on connectivity between component parts of the property is negated on the grounds that these projects are located outside of the property and that natural features, such as high mountains and canyons, act as barriers between river valleys. On the other hand, the north-south oriented landscapes amongst the component parts of the property are endorsed as primary passageways for the migration of species;
- The development and utilisation of resources, such as hydropower, is suggested as a way to alleviate poverty in the region.

On 14 January 2021, the State Party submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a power transmission line project passing through the property.

On 16 April 2021, in the framework of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Asia and the Pacific region, the State Party submitted the updated maps of the property including surface areas of the 8 components to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The clarification of institutional responsibilities following the reform and the release of new plans and guidelines to “push forward rigorously the implementation of ecological restoration” are appreciated. While the provincial-level request to accelerate restoration of post-mining areas is welcomed, the extent of active restoration appears to be very limited and excludes high-altitude areas. It is recommended that the State Party be requested to provide more details on the active and passive restoration measures that are being taken and to seek further advice from IUCN to facilitate natural regeneration in high

altitudes. It is also crucial to ensure adequate surveillance and law enforcement to prevent any reoccurrence of illegal mining activities.

The appointment of experts to improve the quality of the SEA is welcomed. Given the continued pressure from hydropower and infrastructure development in the province and along the three rivers (Nujiang, Lancang, and Jinsha), it is considered urgent that the draft SEA be further improved and completed, in line with international best practices and the *IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment*, so that the results can inform management and decision making on future developments. The request for further advice is noted, and the State Party could be encouraged to invite an IUCN Advisory mission to address this.

While welcoming the confirmation that there are currently no hydropower development plans on the Nujiang River, there remain some concerns regarding the future possibility of hydropower and related infrastructure in the Yunnan Province. In this regard, the SEA is critical to assess the indirect and cumulative impacts for the wider area, including both the upstream and downstream catchments of the three rivers. The north-south longitudinal connectivity within each valley is an essential passageway for wildlife, as noted by the State Party. Apart from constituting physical barriers, dams also interrupt natural flow and flood pulse dynamics, sediment and nutrient transport, and lead to ecosystem fragmentation. An increasingly comprehensive consideration of the linkages between conservation and development is therefore recommended.

A number of new strategies, laws and regulations have been implemented at national and provincial levels to strengthen environmental protection, promote sustainable development and effectively act against illicit activities. Improvement in protected area management effectiveness through institutional reforms, simplification of management structures and the new Directive on National Park establishment are welcome initiatives. While acknowledging the scale of these reforms, it is of concern that the development of the CMP and Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA) system for the property have been halted until the reform is completed, and continued efforts to advance all pending recommendations of the 2013 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, notably to establish a monitoring system for all mining and prospecting activities between the Hong Shan and the Haba Snow Mountain components of the property in order to understand risks and impacts, particularly with regard to landscape connectivity and wildlife, are needed. The Committee may wish to request the State Party to submit the updated draft CMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

The EIA submitted for the power transmission project proposes a design using the Nujiang Power Grid to supply power to the Dulongjiang Township, located inside the property. The transmission line would therefore pass through a large section of Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve component of the property. The EIA identifies impacts of the construction and operation phases on flora and fauna and on the scenic values, especially where the line crosses rivers and gorges. This raises important concerns regarding cumulative impacts of the proposed power line with other infrastructure developments, including the new Dulongjiang Highway completed in 2015 within the Gaoligongshan component, which is one of the key biodiversity areas of the property, with many rare and endangered species. While acknowledging the ambition to alleviate poverty and limit firewood dependency, the proposal is contrary to the 2013 mission recommendation, subsequently endorsed by the Committee (Decision **37 COM 7B.12**), to avoid the construction of transmission infrastructure within the property and its buffer zone. An alternative option that would not impact the property's OUV should therefore be explored, and a holistic strategy developed for power generation and electricity transmission to meet long-term energy demands without increasing reliance on hydropower.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.182**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **37 COM 7B.12** and **43 COM 7B.5**, adopted at its 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*

3. *Appreciates the clarification of the institutional responsibilities for ecological restoration in post-mining sites and the development of new plans and guidelines for implementation, and requests the State Party to provide more details on the active and passive restoration measures which are being taken, to seek further advice from IUCN to facilitate natural regeneration in high altitudes, and to ensure that adequate surveillance and law enforcement measures are applied to prevent any reoccurrence of illegal mining activities;*
4. *Urges the State Party to further improve and finalise the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in line with international best practices and the IUCN World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to ensure that the SEA includes an assessment of indirect and cumulative impacts of both the upstream and downstream catchments of Nujiang, Lancang and Jinsha Rivers, so that the results can inform management and decision making for future developments;*
5. *Noting the State Party's request for further advice on the improvement and finalisation of the SEA, encourages the State Party to invite an IUCN Advisory mission to that effect;*
6. *Welcomes the progress achieved at the national and provincial levels to strengthen environmental protection and promote sustainable development, but reiterates its requests to expedite the development of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and Management Effectiveness Assessment (MEA) system in line with the recommendations of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to submit the updated draft CMP to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN;*
7. *Urgently requests the State Party to also implement the other recommendations of the 2013 IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission, and specifically to establish a monitoring system for all mining and prospecting activities between the Hong Shan and the Haba Snow Mountain components of the property in order to understand risks and impacts, particularly with regard to landscape connectivity and wildlife;*
8. *Notes with concern the possible direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the proposed power transmission line project through the Gaoligongshan National Nature Reserve component of the property, and also recalling the recommendation of the 2013 Reactive Monitoring mission to avoid the construction of transmission infrastructure within the property and its buffer zones, also requests the State Party to explore an alternative option that will not impact the OUV of the property;*
9. *Further requests the State Party to ensure the development of a holistic plan on power generation and electricity transmission that ensures the protection of the property's OUV;*
10. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## 183. Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (China) (N 640)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1992

Criteria (vii)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/640/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (1998)

Total amount approved: USD 60,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/640/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

September 1998: World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Air pollution
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Surface water pollution
- Site to be overrun with tourist facilities (issue resolved)
- Several parts of the site severely impacted by floods in 1998 (issue resolved)
- Plan for rehabilitation of damaged areas required (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/640/>

Current conservation issues

On 26 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, a summary of which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/640/documents/> and provides information as follows:

- No new road, cable car, elevator or electric railway infrastructure project has been developed in the property since March 2015. The only projects that have been approved and undertaken relate to improvement of existing infrastructure facilities, such as waste treatment methods of tourist toilets, maintenance of path handrails, and updating the indoor exhibitions of the Zhangjiajie Global Geopark Museum.
- The revision of the *Overall Plan of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (2005-2020)* is still in progress. The delay in the formulation of the Plan is due to an ongoing national reform in the protected area system and further delays associated with COVID-19. The revised draft plan will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available.
- The number of visitors to the property decreased greatly in 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. The final Sustainable Tourism and Development Strategy of the property is annexed to the state of conservation report and was undertaken as part of a pilot study (2015-2020) identifying the main issues and potential solutions for sustainable tourism in Wulingyuan, carried out by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP/Shanghai) and in alignment with the objectives of the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme.
- The State Party has made efforts towards positive engagement with local communities during the relocation programmes, in line with the 2015 *Policy Document on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention*, ensuring effective consultation and fair compensation. Activities included research and conservation on both cultural and biological diversity, enhancing local and indigenous ecological knowledge and

community-based natural resource management, strengthening coordination with the local community, providing training in the conservation of the property, and facilitating poverty alleviation.

### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The clarification from the State Party regarding the approved infrastructure projects, as requested by the Committee, is appreciated and indicates that the approved activities to date focus only on repair and maintenance, and therefore appear to be small in scale and not to constitute a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. The State Party's continued implementation of measures towards strengthening sustainable tourism, integrated water management and minimizing environmental pollution in the property are positive.

It is noted that no new road has been constructed within the property since 2015. It is critical that the State Party continue to uphold the Committee's request to ensure that no road is permitted within the property in the future.

It is again regrettable that the State Party has not submitted the *Overall Plan of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area (2005-2020)*, despite the Committee's previous requests. Acknowledging that the Plan has now completed its implementation period and is currently undergoing review in the context of wider reform of the national protected areas system, and given the State Party's intention to submit the new Plan following its completion (scheduled for 2020 but delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic), it is critical that the review of the new draft plan be completed as soon as possible and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN.

The finalization of the *Sustainable Tourism and Development Strategy of the World Heritage Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area*, carried out by WHITR-AP/Shanghai in alignment with the objectives of the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme, is welcomed. Noting that tourism numbers decreased in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic, and acknowledging the Committee's concerns over the impacts of growing visitor numbers on the property, it is critical to ensure that tourism numbers do not reach unsustainable levels within the property following the anticipated recovery of the tourism market. It is, therefore, welcomed that the Sustainable Tourism and Development Strategy includes provisions to improve resilience to risks in its development model by incorporating local community participation and regional economic development. However, noting that visitation to the property was increasing year-on-year before 2020, and recalling previous decisions of the Committee, the fact that it is unclear how tourism carrying capacity limits are calculated in order to ensure that visitation does not negatively impact the property remains a source of concern.

Finally, while taking note that the relocation of local residents was reportedly carried out by engaging local communities through public consultation and included financial compensation incentives and social benefits to encourage voluntary relocation, it is important that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue ensuring that any relocation programme is implemented in line with the 2015 *Policy Document on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention* and thus ensures effective consultation, fair compensation, access to social benefits and skills training, and the preservation of cultural rights.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.183**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.6, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the State Party's ongoing efforts to manage impacts on the property, including integrated water management, and its commitment towards effective protection and management measures in the future;
4. Notes the updated information that the infrastructure projects approved and undertaken to date by the State Party relate to minor improvements to existing facilities, and

therefore do not appear to pose a threat to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;

5. Also notes that no new road has been constructed within the property since 2015, but recalls its previously expressed concern that road construction continues to be allowed in principle, and therefore requests the State Party to confirm that no new road development will be permitted within the property in the future;
6. Regrets that the State Party did not submit the 2005-2020 Overall Plan of Wulingyuan Scenic and Historic Interest Area and reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the revised draft Overall Plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN as soon as it is available;
7. Also welcomes the finalisation of the Sustainable Tourism and Development Strategy of the property, in line with the conclusions and suggestions provided through a pilot study on World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism in Wulingyuan, commissioned by the World Heritage Centre and implemented by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP/Shanghai), a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO;
8. Also recalls that visitation numbers to the property were increasing every year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and also requests the State Party to provide information on how clear and quantifiable tourism carrying capacity limits will be established in the Overall Plan and how they will be implemented, in order to ensure visitation does not negatively impact the property once the tourism market recovers at the property;
9. Further recalling its request that the State Party ensure that any relocation programme is implemented in line with the 2015 Policy Document on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention and that effective consultation, fair compensation, access to social benefits and skills training, and the preservation of cultural rights are guaranteed, notes with appreciation the State Party's efforts to positively engage with local communities;
10. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for review by the Advisory Bodies.

#### **184. Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (India) (N 1406rev)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2014

Criteria (x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

N/A

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting (Collection of medicinal plants)
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Water infrastructure (hydroelectric development downstream of the property)
- Management systems/ management plan (need to consolidate management of the Parwati Valley within the national park)
- Human resources (inadequate levels of staffing, equipment and training for patrolling in high-altitude terrain)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Others (Rights issues with respect to local communities and indigenous peoples in the Tirthan and Sainj Wildlife Sanctuaries and in the Jiwanal Valley within the national park) (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/>

### Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1406/documents> and reports progress in addressing Decision **43 COM 7B.8** as follows:

- The State Party reaffirms its continued commitment to expanding the property through the inclusion of the Khirganga and Pin Valley National Parks and the Rupi Bhabha and the Kanawar Wildlife Sanctuaries. The Khirganga National Park is still in the process of gaining full National Park status. The intended extension will be submitted as a significant boundary modification in line with Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*, with technical support from the Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and IUCN;
- The decision to not re-categorise Sainj and Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuaries as national parks to avoid relocation of three villages in Sainj Wildlife Sanctuary is reiterated;
- Various efforts to engage with, train and support the local communities, notably through women's groups, are again presented. The Park Administration provides guidance on sustainable visitor and waste management to local tour operators as well as environmental education, awareness and training programmes for the community, school children and local nature guides;
- The State Party considers that the impacts from existing resource use on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are minimal, as most of the harvesting of natural resources occurs in the Eco-zone buffer zone;
- A new management effectiveness evaluation (MEE) of the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) component was undertaken in 2018-2019, which suggested that significant improvements in management have been realised since the 2015 MEE report findings, which covered the period 2006-2014;
- The State Party reaffirms its commitment to contribute to a regional comparative study, as recommended by the Committee in Decision **38 COM 8B.7**, in consultation with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), IUCN and WII.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

While the State Party's report is responding to Decision **43 COM 7B.8**, it is regrettable that very limited new information is provided, as most of the contents are a reiteration of the December 2018 report. In addition, the State Party has not indicated whether there are other current conservation issues identified that may have an impact on the property's OUV, as per the standard reporting format.

The confirmation that the State Party remains committed to significantly enlarging the property by including additional areas is welcome. However, it is noted that little new information on the progress of

the property extension is provided. The full national park status for Khirganga, required for merging the park with the property, is still pending. No status or process update is provided regarding how to include the Pin Valley National Park and the two wildlife sanctuaries in the extension. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to increase its efforts to entitle the necessary status and designations so that the next steps of the extension process can proceed, in line with the procedures for Significant Boundary Modifications set out in Paragraph 165 of the *Operational Guidelines*. The World Heritage Centre and IUCN continue to stand ready to provide advice and support to the State Party, if requested.

While acknowledging that regular meetings are held with local stakeholders to ensure their meaningful involvement in the governance and management of the property, no specific information is provided regarding the involvement of local stakeholders and rights-holders in the property extension process or in other decision making processes. Furthermore, there is no update in response to the Committee's request to conduct an assessment of the impacts of existing resource use on the OUV of the property, in particular grazing and collection of medicinal plants. Three villages located within the property and 160 villages in the buffer zone (Eco-zone) are dependent on natural resources, although efforts to provide alternative livelihoods are noted. The current situation regarding resource use in Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary component of the property is unclear, particularly in relation to livestock grazing. It also remains unclear how the decision not to re-categorise the wildlife sanctuary as a national park might affect the intention of phasing out grazing in this component of the property.

The positive results of the MEE for the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) are encouraging, particularly in relation to the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts and the effectiveness of its protection strategy. The full MEE report available from the Government of India's website shows that the MEE scores for Sainj and Tirthan components are equally good. Nevertheless, there are management weaknesses that require attention as identified in the MEE, such as an absence of systematic wildlife monitoring in all three components, immense biotic pressure in Sainj and Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuaries from livestock grazing and natural resource collection, and the scope for further involvement of communities in the management activities in GHNP.

In support of Decision **38 COM 8B.7** to develop a regional comparative study, a technical assessment of the Hindu Kush Himalaya as defined by ICIMOD is forthcoming through a collaborative effort between ICIMOD, Wild Heritage, IUCN and the National Geographic Society.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.184**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **38 COM 8B.7**, **40 COM 7B.88** and **43 COM 7B.8**, adopted at its 38th (Doha, 2014), 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the State Party's continued commitment to significantly enlarging the property and encourages the State Party to increase its efforts to entitle the necessary status and designations to the protected areas considered for inclusion in the extension in order to advance the process;*
4. *Acknowledges the efforts to ensure the meaningful involvement of local stakeholders in the governance and management of the property, and reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure that this involvement is also secured in the process of enlarging the property;*
5. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to conduct an assessment of the impacts from existing resource use on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in particular grazing and the collection of medicinal plants, to help establish a basis for decision making;*



6. *Requests the State Party to provide an update on the current status of livestock grazing in Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuary and plans to phase out grazing, in light of the decision not to re-categorise the wildlife sanctuary as a national park;*
7. *Appreciates the positive results of the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) for the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP), Sainj and Tirthan Wildlife Sanctuaries and also requests the State Party to fully address the management deficiencies identified in the 2018-2019 MEE Report, especially in relation to the immense human pressure in the Wildlife Sanctuaries, and the absence of systematic wildlife monitoring across the property;*
8. *Also welcomes the development of a technical assessment of the Hindu Kush Himalaya as defined by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in support of Decision **38 COM 8B.7**, through collaboration between the States Parties, ICIMOD, IUCN and other partners, and recommends that this be made widely available upon publication and considered by the relevant States Parties with a view to identifying potential areas for nomination to the World Heritage List in this region, including potential serial nominations/extensions, possibly by making use of upstream advice as defined in the Operational Guidelines;*
9. *Considering the lack of sufficient information on a large number of issues, further requests the State Party and managers of the property to engage in dialogue and consultation with the World Heritage Centre and IUCN in 2021 in order to consider the implementation of the present decision, virtually or in person as the situation allows;*
10. *Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2023**, an updated and comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session in 2024.*

## **185. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India) (N 338)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1985

Criteria (vii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger 1992-2011

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 2 (1997)

Total amount approved: USD 165,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

In 2008, the property benefited from the UNF-funded programme for enhancing management effectiveness, building staff capacity and increasing the involvement of local communities.

### Previous monitoring missions

March 1992: IUCN mission; January 1997: UNESCO mission; February 2002: IUCN monitoring mission; March-April 2005, February 2008, January 2011: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Civil unrest (Forced evacuation of Park staff) (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities (Poaching and illegal logging)
- Crop production (Subsistence agriculture inside the property)
- Financial resources (Slow release of funds by central Government)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Impact of tourism/visitor/recreation (Uncontrolled infrastructure development by local tourism groups)
- Military training (Attempts by paramilitary group to set up base camps in the property) (issue resolved)
- Land conversion
- Water infrastructure (Impacts of upstream dam development)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/>

### Current conservation issues

On 12 November 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/338/documents/> and provides the following updates:

- Increased efforts to address poaching, notably through the establishment of new anti-poaching camps and strengthened frontline patrolling, have resulted in increased detection of poaching and other wildlife crime. Several arrests for wildlife crimes have been made in the Panbari and Bansbari ranges, including tiger poaching and possession of tiger parts. No rhino poaching has been reported in the property since 2017. The rhino population now stands at 43 animals, after two further translocations from Kaziranga National Park (India);
- Seasonal agriculture has been historically practiced by indigenous communities within the property for subsistence and non-commercial purposes. The park authority has been engaging with the local communities to ensure the sustainability of such practices. A proposal to fund an eviction operation in the Betbari area, located within the Manas National Park, was submitted to the authority in December 2019 but not implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- A workshop to finalise an Action Plan for sustainable habitat management of the grassland-woodland ecosystem, taking into account invasive species and fire regimes, was conducted with relevant stakeholders in January 2020. The selection of contractors to implement habitat management in three locations of the park is being finalised;
- Transboundary cooperation with the State Party of Bhutan in managing the connected landscape across the boundaries of the property and the Royal Manas National Park (RMNP) continues to be strengthened. An increased number of tigers has been reported in RMNP. A site-level transboundary meeting was held in July 2019, and the two States Parties agreed to meet quarterly, while continuing synchronized patrolling along the border and exchanging information on wildlife crimes;
- A number of projects related to conservation, the translocation of key species and livelihood development of local communities have been implemented.

Despite repeated requests by the Committee since 2012, the State Party of Bhutan did not provide information concerning the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project.

### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The State Party's continued efforts to protect the property from poaching are welcomed, particularly the reporting of zero rhino poaching since 2017 and the continued rhino population growth, including through translocations. However, the persistent occurrence of wildlife crime, including tiger poaching and the confiscation of tiger parts, remains a concern. The continued implementation of anti-poaching measures and scaling up of such efforts where possible are necessary.

In spite of the State Party's actions, agricultural encroachment remains a serious threat to the integrity of the property, and it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to strengthen its efforts to identify long-term solutions to address this issue in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, while improving livelihood security of local communities. It is important to ensure that solutions respect the social, economic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with the 2015 *Policy Document on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention*.

The progress made towards the finalization of the Action Plan for the sustainable management of the grassland-woodland ecosystem and the implementation of control measures on the ground is welcomed. Given the extent of the threat posed by invasive species and their potential impact on the property's biodiversity, there is an urgent need to finalise and implement the Action Plan, as noted by the Committee in Decision **43 COM 7B.7**.

Enhanced transboundary cooperation with the State Party of Bhutan to better protect flagship species moving across national boundaries is commendable and should be continued. The importance of conserving the larger transboundary landscape for the integrity and long-term viability of the property, notably to increase its adaptability to climate change, needs to be emphasized. In this respect, it is important to recall Decision **35 COM 7A.13**, which encouraged the State Party to conduct a joint feasibility study with the State Party of Bhutan on a possible transboundary extension of the property, and Decision **41 COM 8B.36**, which requested the State Party to submit a revised proposal for a boundary modification that does not include any established cropland or permanently encroached areas within the nominated property and to include full details on the relationships with stakeholders and/or rights-holders related to the cropland areas within Manas National Park.

It is deeply regrettable that the State Party of Bhutan has not yet provided information on the status of the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project nor submitted a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), despite repeated requests by the Committee since 2012 in view of its potentially significant impact on the property's OUV (Decision **36 COM 7B.10**). According to an official press release by the State Party of India dated 18 August 2019, the power station has been already completed and was inaugurated by high government officials of both States Parties in August 2019. It is of utmost concern that neither State Party informed the Committee of the project prior to its implementation, despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*. It is therefore recommended that the Committee urge the States Parties of India and Bhutan to (a) submit a copy of the EIA to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible for review by IUCN, including an assessment of the project's impact on the property's OUV, notably its integrity; and (b) provide details on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), its implementation and the measures that have been taken to ensure that any impacts on the OUV are avoided.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.185**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **35 COM 7A.13**, **36 COM 7B.10**, **41 COM 8B.36** and **43 COM 7B.7**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, Paris, 2011), 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party for its continued efforts against poaching and the absence of any reported rhino poaching since 2017, and notes with satisfaction that the rhino population continues to grow;*
4. *Notes with concern that poaching and other wildlife crime still persist within the property, and requests the State Party to continue implementing anti-poaching measures and scaling up such efforts, where possible and necessary;*
5. *Reiterates its concern that agricultural encroachment remains a serious threat to the integrity of the property, despite the State Party's actions, and also requests the State Party to strengthen its efforts to identify long-term solutions to address this issue and respect the social, economic and cultural rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and improve their livelihoods, in line with the 2015 Policy Document on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention;*

6. Welcomes the progress made by the State Party towards the finalization of an Action Plan for sustainable management of the grassland-woodland ecosystems and the implementation of a scientific habitat management protocol on the ground, and urges the State Party to finalize and implement the Action Plan as soon as possible in order to prevent further spread of invasive species, as noted by the Committee in Decision **43 COM 7B.7**;
7. Also commends the States Parties of India and Bhutan for their enhanced cooperation to better protect flagship species moving across national boundaries between the property and the adjacent Royal Manas National Park, and further requests the States Parties to further strengthen their cooperation;
8. Reiterates the importance of the conservation of the larger landscape for the integrity and long-term viability of the property, notably to increase its adaptability to climate change, and reiterates its encouragement to the State Party to:
  - a) Submit a revised proposal for the extension of the property that does not include any established cropland or permanently encroached areas within the nominated property and to include full details on the relationships with stakeholders and/or rights-holders related to the cropland areas within Manas National Park,
  - b) Conduct, with the State Party of Bhutan, a joint feasibility study on a possible transboundary extension of the property, in line with the aforementioned decisions;
9. Deeply regrets that, despite its repeated requests since 2012, the State Party of Bhutan has not provided information on the status of the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project nor submitted a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to address the project's potentially significant impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), notes with utmost concern that the project has already been completed, and also deeply regrets that the State Party of India did not inform the Committee of the project prior to its implementation, despite the provisions of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
10. Also urges the States Parties of India and Bhutan to:
  - a) Submit as soon as possible a copy of the EIA for the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN, which should include an assessment of the project's impact on the property's OUV, notably its integrity,
  - b) Provide details on the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and the measures taken to ensure that any impact on the OUV is being avoided, for review by IUCN,
  - c) Report on the implementation of the EMP and the monitoring of potential impacts on the OUV of the property;
11. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## 186. Shiretoko (Japan) (N 1193)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: joint World Heritage Centre/ IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; September 2019: IUCN Advisory mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure (River engineering, in particular dams, impeding or restricting fish migration, including major runs of salmonids)
- Aquaculture (Management of commercial fisheries, including coordination and cooperation with neighbouring States Parties)
- Hyper-abundant species (Excessive population density of Sika Deer affecting forest regeneration and vegetation more broadly)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation and Management system/Management plan (Tourism and visitor management)
- Climate change and severe weather events (Anticipated effects of climate change)
- Management activities (Management of the Western Steller Sea Lion population)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/>

### Current conservation issues

On 27 November 2020, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193/documents/> and provides the following updates:

- The joint Japan-Russia research indicates that the Steller Sea Lions (*Eumetopias jabatus*) migrating to the Nemuro Strait originate almost exclusively in the Kuril Islands. The State Party introduced a mark-recapture method to study the population levels instead of a direct count from onshore and is planning to develop a population dynamic model and a management model using data from sea lions captured in the Nemuro Strait;
- Non-lethal measures (relocation of fishing nets, firing of non-lethal bullets and use of reinforced gill nets) are being applied to reduce the continued financial damage to the fishing industry caused by the Steller Sea Lions. However, these methods have limited effectiveness, and therefore culling will be continued at the current levels;
- The 2012 Long-Term Monitoring Plan for the property was revised in 2019 to improve monitoring activities concerning climate change. In 2018, the Climate Change Adaptation Act was established and the Climate Change Adaptation Plan subsequently approved by the Cabinet, leading to the development of the “*Guidelines for considering climate change adaptation measures in Protected Areas such as National Parks*” in 2019. The development of an adaptive management strategy in Shiretoko will be accelerated based on the above policies, with reference to a World Heritage Paper Series “*Climate Change Adaptation for Natural World Heritage Sites – A Practical Guide*” (2014).

The IUCN Advisory mission to the property took place between 23 and 25 September 2019, and the resulting report is also available at the link above. The State Party responds to the mission recommendations as follows:

- Biological variables such as large woody debris cannot be included in simulation modelling, but dam modifications are progressing under a six-year plan based on hydraulic model experiments;
- An adaptive management approach is taken, including consultations with the River Construction Working Group and local stakeholders;
- Booms at the river mouth are not possible due to safety and technical concerns;
- The impacts of the riverbed path pilot project will be monitored and improvement measures will be taken accordingly;
- The Shiretoko Natural World Heritage Site Regional Liaison Committee holds regular meetings with experts who are members of the Scientific Committee of the property.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The continued positive cooperation between the States Parties of Japan and the Russian Federation to gather data on the Western Steller Sea Lion populations around the Kuril Islands is welcomed. The State Party reports again its plans to develop a population dynamic model to inform management, using a new method to estimate the population level. However, taking note of the State Party's intentions to continue the culling of sea lions at current levels until further data becomes available, it is of the greatest importance that the development of the population model is accelerated to the extent possible. As noted previously, the concerns for population trends of this subspecies remain valid, and the need for a precautionary approach should be re-emphasized. It is further recommended that international scientific advice is reflected in the precautionary approach needed, including through the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

The revision of the 2019 Long-Term Monitoring Plan to improve monitoring of climate change-driven impacts is appreciated. However, it is recommended that the State Party be requested to review the Plan to ensure that the definition of the biodiversity recognized under criterion (x) references aquatic biodiversity, specifically the salmonid species and marine mammals, to ensure that the OUV is fully and accurately captured in long-term monitoring plans in and around the property.

The national focus on climate change adaptation is a welcome development, considering that the expected impacts of climate change on the OUV of the property remain uncertain. Due to the complex interactions between the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems within the property, there is a need to understand and assess vulnerability in order to underpin preparedness efforts. It is recommended that the climate change adaptive management strategy for the property is shared with the World Heritage Centre once it is available, and ensure that efforts extend beyond the development of a strategy and that the implementation of necessary actions be fully supported.

The 2019 IUCN Advisory mission observed that the simulations used to guide the restoration activities in the Rurik River were helpful, but that the models did not adequately represent the natural biological functions of river ecosystems, which are needed to accurately inform decision making. While taking note of the State Party's response regarding technical limitations to simulation modelling, it is recommended that the State Party continue to explore additional tools that could enhance the current understanding of river restoration approach and options. It is noted that the use of booms, an option suggested by the mission to capture large woody debris, is not feasible. The State Party should thus be encouraged to further explore alternative ways of balancing river restoration needs with the concerns of fishers. The State Party's confirmation that it continues to monitor the impacts of the riverbed path pilot project is appreciated, especially due to the periodic disturbance that it may cause to the benthic habitat, erosion and fish passage. As recommended by the mission, prompt remedial actions should be implemented as necessary, based on comprehensive scientific understanding.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.186**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **41 COM 7B.30** and **43 COM 7B.10**, adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017) and 43rd (Baku, 2019) sessions respectively,
3. Welcomes the national focus on climate change adaptation through the enactment of the 2018 Climate Change Adaptation Act, which will facilitate the development of an adaptive management strategy for the property, and requests the State Party to submit the final strategy to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN and to ensure that full support is provided for its implementation and the ongoing protection of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
4. Also welcomes the continued cooperation between the States Parties of Japan and the Russian Federation to survey the Western Steller Sea Lion population, reiterates its concern however regarding the ongoing culling of the sea lions, given the continued absence of population data, and therefore urges the States Parties to accelerate the development of a population dynamic model, to the extent possible, in order to inform population management;
5. Urges again the State Party to reconsider, reduce or eliminate if necessary the current levels of culling of the Western Steller Sea Lion population, taking international advice into consideration and adopting a precautionary approach until accurate and comprehensive data on this subspecies become available;
6. Appreciates the revision of the Long-Term Monitoring Plan to improve monitoring of climate change-driven impacts, but also requests the State Party to ensure that the attributes of the property's OUV are fully reflected in the Long-Term Monitoring Plan to ensure aquatic biodiversity, specifically the salmonid species and marine mammals, are all included and monitored;
7. Also takes note of the State Party's response to the 2019 IUCN Advisory mission's recommendations, and also encourages the State Party to:
  - a) Take measures to improve the representation of biological variables in river ecosystems, to enhance the current understanding of river restoration approaches and options,
  - b) Consider alternative methodologies to capture large wooden debris as a way to better balance river restoration needs with the fishery stakeholders' concerns,
  - c) Continue to monitor the impacts of the riverbed path pilot project, especially in relation to erosion, fish passage and disturbance to the benthic habitat, and take prompt remedial actions in relation to any identified impacts, as necessary, based on comprehensive scientific understanding;
8. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

### **187. Landscapes of Dauria (Mongolia, Russian Federation) (N 1448)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### **188. Chitwan National Park (Nepal) (N 284)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### **189. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park (Viet Nam) (N 951bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2003

Criteria (viii)(ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2005-2021)

Total amount approved: USD 104,040

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 33,000 from UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to support Stakeholder's Consultation for the transboundary cooperation with Lao PDR (2006)

Previous monitoring missions

July 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (Negative impacts of a road construction project in the World Heritage site) (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities (Illegal logging and forest crimes (poaching))
- Management systems/management plan (Lack of a visitor Management Plan, Inadequate Sustainable Tourism Development Plan)
- Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (Cable car project to provide access to the Son Doong cave)
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/>

Current conservation issues

On 5 January 2021, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/951/documents/>, which provides the following information:

- In January 2020, the Quang Bing Provincial People's Committee (PPC) issued a Directive requesting all provincial authorities to strengthen conservation and promotion of World Heritage values, with a specific emphasis on preventing activities that degrade forests and habitats of primates in the property;



- The Forest Protection Unit was created and Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrols and law enforcement have continued to target poaching activities and illegal entries into the property;
- A sustainable forest management plan (2021-2030), a Biodiversity Conservation Plan (vision 2040) and a plan for the conservation and promotion of heritage values are under elaboration;
- The implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Primate Species in the Park is continuing, and rare endemic tree species are being propagated;
- A pilot project for the eradication of the invasive plant *Merremia boissiana* was undertaken from October 2018 to November 2019, and in 2020, the PPC submitted a proposal for a research project to investigate the spread of *M. boissiana* within the property;
- Cable cars projects are no longer being considered. A new research project to assess the tourism capacity of caves within the property is being proposed in response to the 2018 World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation to adapt the management of caves according to their specific vulnerability and requirements;
- Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) at tourist sites such as Paradise cave, Pong Nha and Tien Son cave, Dark Cave – Chay river, and Mooc spring Eco-trail were undertaken, which showed that the measurements of abiotic factors are within national permitted standards;
- Heavy rainfall in October 2020 caused landslides and flooding in 25% of the property, thereby impacting its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and affecting the lives of communities in the whole province;
- Substantially reduced tourist numbers in 2020 due to COVID-19 led to the loss of jobs and a correlated increase in natural resource pressure, but proactive actions led to a quick restoration of normal operations. The period between 2019 and October 2020 saw 1.2 million visitors;
- Cooperation with Lao People's Democratic Republic to strengthen the protection of the property and Hin Nam No National Park is continuing, in view of a potential future transboundary nomination.

An Emergency Assistance request to mitigate damage to the property following the October 2020 rainfall was approved in May 2021.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The firm commitment expressed by the State Party to address past Committee decisions and mission recommendations is appreciated. Areas of progress include the continued cooperation with the Lao People's Democratic Republic to enhance the protection of the transboundary ecosystem, the Directive at the provincial level to enhance the protection of World Heritage, and other management and conservation tools. However, there was no update regarding how the new regulations will ensure effective engagement of a wider range of stakeholders in the management and valorization of the property, as requested by the Committee. The State Party's continued efforts to address poaching and other illegal activities, notably through the strengthened patrolling, are welcomed. Recalling the State Party's 2019 report, which mentioned a serious decline in large mammal species and prey species within the property, it is recommended that the State Party further intensify law enforcement, patrolling and monitoring efforts, with particular focus on the perimeter and high-risk areas within the property, and emphasize proactive anti-poaching measures to urgently reverse this concerning trend.

The research projects on invasive species within the property are appreciated and will contribute to a better understanding of the extent of their impact on the OUV and its management. In the absence of a summary of the findings of the pilot project for the eradication of *M. boissiana*, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to provide a report on the results of the pilot project to the World Heritage Centre and to clarify how it intends to use these findings to inform further activities. Recalling that, in 2017, the State Party reported that *M. boissiana* covered 4,000 ha of the property, it is more pressing that the State Party focus its efforts and resources to address the threat on the basis of the implemented assessments of the extent of spread. Furthermore, recalling that *M. boissiana* is one of the 14 invasive species identified within the property, it is vital that the State Party allocate sufficient financial resources for long-term measures to address this threat and ensure that there is a clear strategy and action plan.

The State Party's proposal to assess the tourism capacity within the property's caves is noted, and it is hoped that it will inform future management. As travel and tourism reopen following the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that tourism numbers and activities are effectively managed and that the State Party continues to refrain from approving or implementing any future infrastructure project in or near caves without the endorsement of the Committee. In this regard, it is recommended that the Committee welcome the confirmation that cable car projects are no longer under consideration and remind the State Party once again to update the 2010-2020 Sustainable Tourism Development Plan, ensuring its integration with other key management tools such as the 2013-2025 Strategic Management Plan and the 2013-2020 Operational Management Plan, and paying careful attention to the balance between tourism development and biodiversity conservation by clarifying the functional zoning of the property as well as increased benefit sharing among stakeholders, as recommended by the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission.

The reported damages to the communities' livelihoods and the OUV of the property as a result of landslides and flooding in October 2020 are of concern, and in this regard, it is welcomed that the Emergency Assistance request to mitigate the damage to the property was approved to complement the State Party's ongoing mitigation efforts.

**Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.189**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision 43 COM 7B.12, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the efforts of the State Party to implement the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, including a new Directive by the Quang Bing Provincial People's Committee, which requires all provincial authorities to strengthen conservation and promotion of World Heritage values, the elaboration of a sustainable forest management plan (2021-2030), a Biodiversity Conservation Plan (vision 2040) and a plan for conservation and promotion of heritage values;*
4. *Appreciates the undertaking of a pilot project for the eradication of the invasive plant *Merremia boissiana*, and requests the State Party to develop a clear strategy and action plan that is sufficiently resourced to address the threat posed by the 14 previously reported invasive species identified within the property, and to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, the strategy and action plan along with the findings of the *M. boissiana* pilot project and future plans to cope with its further spread;*
5. *Takes note of the State Party's proposal to assess the tourism capacity within the property's caves, and reiterates its requests to the State Party to take the necessary measures to avoid a further increase in the number of visitors to the caves located within the property and not to approve nor implement any future infrastructure project in or near the caves that could impact the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
6. *Also welcomes the confirmation provided by the State Party that cable car projects are no longer under consideration, and reminds the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, detailed information for any large-scale tourism and/or development project that may have the potential to impact on the OUV of the property, including any Environmental Impact Assessment, before works commence or any irreversible decision is made, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
7. *Also reiterates once more its request to the State Party to revise and update the 2010-2020 Sustainable Tourism Development Plan and its integration with other key*

*management tools, as suggested by the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, to enhance governance based on the overarching principles of sustaining and preserving the OUV of the property by paying careful attention to the balance between tourism development and biodiversity conservation, as well as increased benefit sharing among stakeholders;*

8. *Further reiterates its request to the State Party to establish an effective mechanism to engage a wider range of stakeholders in the management and valorization of the property;*
9. *Acknowledges the State Party's continued efforts to address poaching and other illegal activities in the property, but considering that a significant reduction in wildlife populations was previously reported, also requests the State Party to further intensify law enforcement, patrolling and monitoring efforts, with a particular focus on the perimeter and high-risk areas within the property, and to take proactive anti-poaching measures to urgently reverse this concerning trend;*
10. *Reiterates furthermore its request that the State Party fully implement the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission, in particular by integrating and harmonizing the various management and conservation plans and tools under a concerted vision of governance, and by clarifying the functional zoning of the property;*
11. *Further welcomes the continued cooperation with the State Party of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for the preservation of biodiversity notably in the transboundary protected area, and for the future nomination of Hin Nam No national protected area jointly with the property in Viet Nam;*
12. *Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

### 190. Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada) (N 256)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 191. Doñana National Park (Spain) (N 685bis)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 192. Gough and Inaccessible Islands (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (N 740bis)

*Year of inscription on the World Heritage List* 1995

*Criteria* (vii)(x)

*Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger* N/A

*Previous Committee Decisions* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/documents/>

#### *International Assistance*

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/assistance/>

#### *UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds*

N/A

#### *Previous monitoring missions*

N/A

#### *Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports*

Invasive/alien terrestrial species (mice) (issue mentioned since 1999)

*Illustrative material* see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/>

#### *Current conservation issues*

On 14 November 2019, the State Party submitted a progress report on the funding and implementation of the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) eradication programme and, on 1 December 2020, a state of conservation report for the property, which are available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/740/documents/>, and provide the following information:

- In 2019, progress towards the planned implementation of the eradication programme in 2020 included the preparation of major contracts, delivery of infrastructure, new expert partnerships and preparations for research team arrivals from March 2020. The project budget stands at £9.1 million including a 10% contingency, with a funding gap of £3 million and agreement by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to underwrite any shortfall;

- In 2020, COVID-19 related restrictions hindered the full implementation of the project, resulting in the expatriation of staff from the island and postponement of the project to 2021. Planning remains ongoing and the RSPB is actively fundraising to allow for contingency should further postponement be required;
- Progress has been made to limit the spread of invasive plant species procumbent pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*) and further work will be undertaken during the mouse eradication project with the aim to fully eradicate the species;
- Information sharing efforts include the online availability of invasive species information and similar initiatives being undertaken by the RSPB, such as rat eradication, on other islands;
- The sinking of a fishing vessel near the island in October 2020 has not caused any ascertained damage to the island or the surrounding sea, and the State Party and Tristan Island Governments are determining whether there is any risk to sea or bird life.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The progress in 2019 regarding preparations to implement the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) eradication programme on Gough Island in 2020 is welcomed. Given the importance of the programme to the conservation of species that are part of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), it is regrettable that COVID-19 restrictions resulted in the postponement of the programme's planned implementation in 2020. It is recommended the Committee request the State Party to ensure full implementation as soon as possible. Since the programme remains to be completed, the Committee's request for the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the results of the programme and actions to avoid collateral impact on any non-target species should be reiterated. The ongoing fundraising efforts by the RSPB and confirmation to underwrite any gaps are commendable. Nevertheless, it is important that funding is secured to ensure full implementation of the programme.

It is positive that progress has been made to limit the spread of invasive procumbent pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*), and especially that it has not spread to the interior of the island, where its potential damaging impacts could be greater. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure the complete eradication of this species from the island as soon as possible, and reiterate its request for the review of the effectiveness of the eradication programme to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre once it is available.

The international exchange of best practices around invasive species and island ecosystem management is commendable and should be continued in order to both facilitate the success of the eradication programmes on Gough Island and to benefit other World Heritage properties.

Whilst acknowledging that the sinking of a fishing vessel in 2020 has caused no ascertained damage, any subsequently identified risks to the OUV of the property should be reported to the World Heritage Centre.

It is noted that the State Party does not provide updates on the current state of the property's biodiversity values, which have been impacted by different invasive species for several years. It is therefore recommended that the Committee request the next state of conservation report to include information about the population dynamics of the species that are part of the property's OUV.

#### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.192**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **42 COM 7B.81**, adopted at its 42nd session (Manama, 2018),
3. Welcomes the progress made in 2019 regarding preparations for the implementation of the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) eradication programme on Gough Island in 2020, however regrets that COVID-19 restrictions resulted in the postponement of the programme's implementation, and requests the State Party to ensure the full

*implementation of the programme, including to secure adequate funding, as a matter of priority as soon as conditions allow;*

4. *Reiterates its request to the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed on the results of the house mouse eradication programme and on actions to avoid collateral impact on any non-target species, and in particular those that are components of the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);*
5. *Appreciating that progress has been made to limit the spread of the invasive plant procumbent pearlwort (*Sagina procumbens*), also requests that the State Party fully implement the eradication programme for this species, and also reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the review of the effectiveness of the eradication programme to the World Heritage Centre as soon as it is available;*
6. *Encourages the State Party to continue sharing its experience on invasive alien species eradication and island ecosystem management practices to promote knowledge exchange with other States Parties facing similar challenges;*
7. *Further requests the State Party to provide an update on the state of conservation of the property's values relating to biodiversity, including population dynamics of the species that are part of its OUV, and on any risks determined from the sunken fishing vessel on the OUV of the property;*
8. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.*

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### 193. Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) (N 764)

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

### 194. Cerrado Protected Areas: Chapada dos Veadeiros and Emas National Parks (Brazil) (N 1035)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/documents/>

#### International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/assistance/>

#### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 100,000 - World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for Brazil; USD 30,000 - Rapid Response Facility support for firefighting

#### Previous monitoring missions

March 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2016: IUCN Advisory mission

#### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (Insufficient legal framework and protection in place)
- Management systems/ management plan (Lack of submission of a significant boundary modification to reflect the new boundaries of the property)
- Fire (wildfires) (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/>

#### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2020, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1035/documents/>, and reports the following progress:

- Following the approval by the Committee of a minor boundary modification in 2019 to reflect the new boundaries of the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park (PNCV), this component of the property now includes the recently created Nova Roma Ecological Station (ESEC CNR) and nine Private Natural Heritage Reserves (RPPNs);
- The PNCV supports the management and protection of the other protected areas (conservation units) comprising the property. Three of the RPPNs (Cara Preta, Tocantins River Springs and Catingueiro) are currently elaborating their Management Plans, with technical and financial support from an international project;
- The revision process for the Management Plan of the PNCV was initiated in November 2017, and the revised plan was due to be published by the end of 2020, pending the preparation of the

Public Use Plan (PUP). However, delays associated with the global COVID-19 pandemic have prevented the finalisation of the Management Plan;

- Management and protection effectiveness of the PNCV is monitored through the use of the Management Analysis and Monitoring System (SAMGe);
- The “land regularization” (i.e. land tenure clarification) process has continued with identification of private properties and their respective landowners, georeferencing, demarcation of boundaries and installation of relevant signs in the PNCV component of the property. There are approximately 125 ongoing private property processes underway. The strategies and pathways for their land regularization are currently being analysed;
- The Integrated Fire Management strategy developed for the property has been consolidated and expanded through cooperation with the ESEC CNR and the capacity building programme carried out with local RPPNs.

On 6 October 2020, a request was received by the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) for urgent support to address fires in the PNCV and its buffer zone. According to the request, the fire had already affected 16.000 ha of the Park and 46.000 ha of its buffer zone. On 7 October, a letter was sent to the State Party requesting more information on the impacts of the fires.

#### Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The measures taken by the State Party to ensure that management approaches are harmonized and focused on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are welcomed. Given the multiple management and governance arrangements across the different conservation units comprising the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property, it remains critical to ensure that management is further aligned across them. It is regrettable that the State Party did not provide any information regarding whether development of an overarching Management Plan for these conservation units has been considered. Acknowledging the delays imposed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, and noting the positive steps towards the review of the Management Plan for the PNCV, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to expedite the review of the Plan and to ensure that adjoining conservation comprising the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property, including RPPNs and the Nova Roma Ecological Station, are considered in this process to ensure further harmonization of management approaches across the entire property.

It is noted with appreciation that the significant financial resources mobilized towards the land regularization process have enabled a number of measures to clarify land tenure in the property. In particular, the identification of private properties and their respective landowners, georeferencing, and appropriate demarcation of boundaries are welcomed measures. However, it is regrettable that the State Party has not submitted a timeframe for the finalization of the process. Noting also that land tenure arrangements for over half of the area of the PNCV component of the property remain unknown, it is recommended the State Party is requested to continue to pursue the land regularization process within the property, including to submit a timeframe for its finalization to the World Heritage Centre.

It is regrettable that the report did not provide any further information on the impacts of the fire of October 2020 on the property. While the Cerrado is a fire-dependent ecosystem, since the early 2000, more intense fires have been occurring every few years, linked to extremely hot and dry weather conditions. Intense fires like the 2017 fire can seriously impact wildlife species such as the jaguar, the maned wolf, the giant armadillo as well as sensible vegetation of riparian forests and other humid areas, which are not affected by normal fires.

The Integrated Fire Management approach, within the property which includes controlled burning actions to avoid extremely hot fires, is welcomed, in particular measures to build capacity in the ESEC CNR and RPPNs to respond to fires appropriately through planning and execution of fire management-related activities. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure ongoing implementation of the Integrated Fire Management approach across all conservation units comprising the property and continue to build capacities to respond to fires in the long-term. The State Party should also be encouraged to evaluate the effectiveness of the Integrated Fire Management approach in reducing the frequency and impacts of intense fires.



### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.194**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decisions **43 COM 7B.22** and **43 COM 8B.42**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Expresses its concern about the increasing number of intense fires in the property and its surroundings, and regrets that no information on the impacts of the fire of October 2020 was provided by the State Party;
4. Welcomes the measures taken by the State Party to ensure that management of the property is further harmonized and focused on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
5. Notes the measures taken towards the revision of the management plan for the Chapada dos Veadeiros National Park (PNCV), but also regrets that no information has been provided regarding whether the development of an overarching Management Plan for the conservation units comprising the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property has been considered;
6. Requests the State Party to expedite the finalization of the Management Plan for the PNCV and to ensure that adjoining conservation units comprising the Chapada dos Veadeiros component of the property are considered in this process to ensure further harmonization of management approaches across the entire property, and to submit the revised Plan to the World Heritage Centre;
7. Takes note of further measures taken by the State Party in clarifying land tenure in the property through the land regularization process, but further regrets that no information was provided regarding the timeframe for the completion of this work, and urges the State Party to clarify the timeframe and to finalise this process, as a matter of priority;
8. Also welcomes the ongoing consolidation of the Integrated Fire Management within the property, also requests the State Party to ensure ongoing implementation of the Integrated Fire Management approach and continue to build capacities to respond to fires in the long-term across all conservation units comprising the property and encourages the State Party to evaluate the effectiveness of the Integrated Fire Management approach in reducing the frequency and impacts of intense fires ;
9. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above.

### **195. Pantanal Conservation Area (Brazil) (N 999)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

## 196. Area de Conservación Guanacaste (Costa Rica) (N 928bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1999

Criteria (ix)(x)

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 3 (from 2000-2004)

Total amount approved: USD 80,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

### Previous monitoring missions

January 2018: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Financial resources
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources (weak control over commercial and artisanal fishing)
- Ground transportation infrastructure (Pan-American Highway that bisects the property)
- Human resources
- Illegal activities
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Renewable energy facilities (Las Pailas I and II geothermal and windpower projects development adjacent to the property)
- Water extraction
- Other Threats: fire (intentional and accidental fires, particularly affecting the dry forests); longstanding subsistence and commercial use of land and resources, prior to inscription on the World Heritage List, with impacts stemming from farming, ranching, logging, pesticide use, introduction of exotic species, sulphur mining, amongst others

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/>

### Current conservation issues

On 3 February 2021, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report which is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/928/documents/> and reports the following progress:

- The proposal for the construction of the Interoceanic Dry Canal was again rejected in 2020 by the Technical Secretariat of the National Council of Concessions, following an appeal by the project proponents;
- There is no industrial infrastructure nor any legislative proposals seeking to authorize such projects within the boundaries of the property or in its vicinity, including renewable energy projects and/or associated infrastructure. Pressure for development of new renewable energy projects is reported to have decreased in recent years resulting in the postponing to 2026 of the beginning of operation of the Borinquen I geothermal project in the vicinity of the property, and the cancellation of the Diquis hydroelectric project;
- The requirement for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) to include a chapter that addresses the impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with the IUCN technical note, are now included in the recommendations issued to the National Environmental Technical Secretariat SETENA;

- A tourist hotel project called “Santo Tomás Beach” is intended to be built in the southern proximities of the area. The Regional Directorate of the *Área de Conservación Guanacaste* (ACG) made some recommendations to the SETENA regarding the potential negative impacts of the project, such as requesting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), before any development takes place;
- Capacity for developing Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) has been built through a Binational Training Workshop between Costa Rica and Panama and the experience from the ongoing development of an SEA for the Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves/La Amistad National Park. This is expected to support elaboration of a future SEA for the property before the development of any possible future projects;
- Activities to mitigate the effects of the Inter-American highway have continued to facilitate ecosystem connectivity and the movement of fauna between the two blocks that the road bisects;
- An initial proposal to include the new Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area within the property, has been accepted by local stakeholders and a Minor Boundary Modification proposal is being prepared;
- The property continues being managed as an integral part of the regionalized management model within the wider landscape and seascape;
- The State Party mentions that climate change is one of the biggest threats that the site is currently facing. On that basis, actions and strategies have been developed to address climate change and try to minimize its impacts, including the “Regional Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change for the Guanacaste Conservation Area”;
- Efforts have been made to implement the recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission; however, due to limited capacity, with limited progress on some of them.

#### *Analysis and Conclusions by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN*

The renewed rejection of the proposal for the Interoceanic Dry Canal project upon appeal is welcomed. The confirmation that no industrial infrastructure, including renewable energy projects and/or associated infrastructure, have been permitted within the boundaries of the property and its vicinity is also welcomed. Given previous proposals to modify the legal framework in order to permit excision of land from protected areas to enable infrastructure construction, it is also welcomed that no such legislation has been proposed and the property remains off-limits to industrial development infrastructure.

The requirement for EIAs to include a chapter that addresses the impacts on the OUV of the property of any proposed infrastructure projects in its vicinity is also a positive development. It is also noted that measures have been taken to build capacity towards the development of SEAs. It is therefore recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to continue these efforts and to reiterate its request to develop an SEA before the development of any further renewable energy projects in order to identify the best means to harmonize renewable energy initiatives and biodiversity conservation objectives, considering the multiple existing and proposed projects and development pressures near the property. The efforts to mitigate the effects of the Inter-American highway and the Ecological National Route 918 as it is upgraded is noted, especially the inter-institutional cooperation to address the issue. However, it is regrettable that no information is provided on the consideration of improvement of National Road 4 as an alternative route in bypassing the property. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee requests the State Party to continue monitoring and mitigation activities along the sections of the highway within and bordering the property, and ensure similar activities are integrated into the upgrading of Ecological National Route 918 and reiterates its request that the State Party explore all future options to mitigate the impacts of the highway on the property, including the feasibility to improve National Road 4.

Given the proximity of the “Santo Tomás Beach” hotel project, the recommendations made by the Regional Directorate of the ACG to the SETENA, to ask for an EIA that addresses the potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property, should be welcomed. Besides, it is advisable that the Committee requests the State Party to submit the EIA for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, once completed.

The development of a Minor Boundary Modification proposal to include the new Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area (BSEMMA) within the property, in agreement with local stakeholders is appreciated. The State Party should be encouraged to proceed with this initiative and to continue to

consider the wider terrestrial area referred to as the Conservation Area in the Management Plan for inclusion in the property. This would harmonize the boundary of the property with other existing management units in both the terrestrial and marine environment and enhance its integrity.

The State Party should also be encouraged to continue the development of the National System of Conservation Areas, given the 2018 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission report noted that the full potential of the legal and policy framework remains to be realized on land and to be extended to the marine parts of the property.

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges that this property faces, with reported changes in the rainfall regime, increased temperatures and extreme droughts. It is recommended that the Committee encourage the State Party to continue implementing strategies to minimize the negative impacts of climate change such as the “Regional Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change for the Guanacaste Conservation Area”.

Whilst acknowledging the current capacity limitations, it is recommended the State Party is requested to strengthen its efforts to implement all recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.196**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.24**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),*
3. *Welcomes the refusal in 2020 of the proposed Interoceanic Dry Canal project following an appeal by the project proponents;*
4. *Notes with appreciation that no industrial infrastructure of any kind has been permitted within the property, and also welcomes the confirmation that the property remains off-limits to industrial development infrastructure, as provided for under national legislation;*
5. *Further welcomes that Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for proposed infrastructure projects in the vicinity of the property are now required to include consideration of potential negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;*
6. *Welcomes furthermore the recommendations made by the Regional Directorate of the Área de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG) to the National Environmental Technical Secretariat (SETENA), requesting the developers of the “Santo Tomás Beach” hotel project to elaborate an EIA of the project during its pre-feasibility phase, and requests the State Party to submit the document, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, once finalized;*
7. *Noting the measures taken to build capacity on conducting Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), reiterates its request to the State Party to develop an SEA before considering of any further renewable energy projects in order to identify the best means to harmonize renewable energy initiatives and biodiversity conservation objectives, considering the multiple existing and proposed projects and development pressures near the property;*
8. *Takes note of the current measures to mitigate the effects of the Inter-American highway, including the inter-institutional cooperation, and encourages the State Party to ensure continued measures along the sections of the highway within and bordering the property, and to ensure similar activities are integrated into the upgrading of Ecological National*

Route 918, whilst reiterating its request that the State Party explore all future options to mitigate the impacts of the highway on the property, including the feasibility to improve National Road 4 as an alternative route;

9. Also encourages the State Party to continue the development of Minor Boundary Modification (MBM) to include the new Bahía Santa Elena Marine Management Area within the property and also recommends the State Party to consider the wider terrestrial area referred to as the Conservation Area or “protected block” for inclusion in the property in order to harmonize the boundary of the property with other existing management units across the terrestrial and marine environment;
10. Welcomes moreover the confirmation that the State Party is continuing to develop the National System of Conservation Areas to create effective wider protection of the property, and further encourages the State Party to continue consolidating the integration of conservation considerations into the wider landscape and seascape to ensure effective buffering of impacts on the World Heritage property;
11. Also takes note of the strategies and instruments elaborated to address the issue of climate change, and encourages furthermore the State Party to continue its efforts in this regard to minimize the negative impacts of climate change, such as the development of a “Regional Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change for the Guanacaste Conservation Area”;
12. While acknowledging the current human and financial capacity limitations, also requests the State Party to fully implement all recommendations of the 2018 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property;
13. Further requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, 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 46th session in 2023.

## **197. Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves / La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica, Panama) (N 205bis)**

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1983

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

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

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/documents/>

### International Assistance

Requests approved: 9 (from 1982-1997)

Total amount approved: USD 276,350

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/assistance/>

### UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 30 000 from the Rapid Response Facility

### Previous monitoring missions

February 2008: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2011: Joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2013: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; January 2016: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

### Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Water infrastructure - Construction of hydroelectric dams near the property in Panama and associated effects (greater human presence near the property, interruption of aquatic species migratory corridor) - Approval of a new hydropower project (Changuinola II or CHAN 140) without prior finalization of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the entire property
- Lack of a long-term biological monitoring program to implement mitigation measures that minimize the negative impacts on the property caused by hydroelectric projects
- Land conversion (Encroachment) and Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals (settlements, cattle ranching)
- Planned road construction, which would traverse the property on the side of Panama (issue resolved)
- Illegal activities
- Management systems / management plan

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/>

### Current conservation issues

On 1 December 2020, the States Parties submitted a joint state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/205/documents/> and report the following progress:

- The States Parties have continued to combat illegal activities within the property through extensive patrolling, including binational patrols in the Caribbean and Pacific sectors with park rangers of both countries. However, the 2020 binational patrols were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Awareness raising activities have been organized with the community and civil society, aiming to address threats. Moreover, the States Parties report support from NGOs to strengthen conservation of the property;
- Despite delays, the update of the management plan of La Amistad International Park in Panama is ongoing. Consultants have now been identified and the document is expected by mid-2021. The Costa Rican La Amistad International Park General Management Plan (GMP) was updated in 2019, and approved by the relevant authorities in 2020. The GMPs for the remaining Costa Rican National Parks which comprise the property remain valid and the development of a GMP for Las Tablas Protective Zone is in an advanced phase;
- The re-activation of the Changuinola II (CHAN II) dam project is not currently being considered. The State Party of Panama acknowledges that the project is included in the national planning developed in the 1970s, prior to inscription of the property, but recognizes its commitments under the Convention and confirms that prior consultations with the World Heritage Centre would be undertaken should the project be re-considered;
- While the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Panamanian side of the property has been completed and approved, the process is not yet completed in Costa Rica. The document is due for completion by the end of 2021, including the harmonization process with the SEA prepared in Panama;
- Ecological monitoring activities related to the Hidroecológica del Teribe SA (Bonyic) and AES Changuinola (CHAN I) dams, located in Palo Seco Protected Forest in Panama were reported quarterly throughout 2019-2020. Activities included monitoring of aquatic and terrestrial fauna in the watercourse and surrounding ecosystem under administration and/or under use of the respective hydropower plants. Further monitoring under the annual operating plans of the respective projects has been committed under concession contracts with the Hidroecológica del Teribe SA (Bonyic), and funding from Water, Protected Areas and Wildlife Fund for monitoring activities for CHAN I dam.

### Analysis and Conclusions by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The States Parties' continued efforts to combat illegal activities within the property, in particular through bilateral cooperation, are welcomed. The measures achieved to date in the formulation of the respective management plans for the La Amistad International Park area of the property are noted. The State Party of Panama should be encouraged to ensure the Management Plan is delivered by mid-2021, as planned, to ensure protection is consistent across the transboundary area of the property.

It is also to be welcomed that the project for the Changuinola II dam (CHAN II) has not been re-activated to date. Recalling the Committee's position that any development of new hydropower projects prior to the finalization and adequate review of the SEA for the entire property would represent a danger to the property's OUV in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, the State Party's reaffirmed commitment to its obligations under the Convention and its confirmation that, should re-activation of the project be considered again, prior consultations with the World Heritage Centre would be undertaken, are noted.

It remains of concern that the SEA for the entire property was not finalized by 2019, as was requested by the Committee and it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request the States Parties to finalize the overall SEA for the entire property, for submission at the earliest possible date and no later than 1 February 2022.

It is recommended that the Committee also reiterate its position, in line with its Decision **40 COM 7** (Paragraph 17), that any development of new hydropower projects prior to the finalization and adequate review of the SEA for the entire property would represent a danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines* leading to potential inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

The monitoring activities undertaken through concession contracts for Hidroecológica del Teribe S.A. (Bonyic) and AES Changuinola (CHAN I) are noted. It is recommended that the Committee request that the State Party of Panama maintain these efforts, including through sustainable funding, to establish long-term monitoring programmes for the two projects and use the findings to design appropriate mitigation measures to ensure the OUV of the property is not negatively impacted, and furthermore consider the monitoring processes and findings in the overall SEA for the entire property.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.197**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,
2. Recalling Decision **43 COM 7B.25**, adopted at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019),
3. Welcomes the States Parties' ongoing efforts to combat illegal activities within the property, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, including through strengthened institutional arrangements and patrols in bilateral cooperation;
4. Notes the measures taken to ensure effective transboundary management of the La Amistad International Park area of the property, including the finalization and adoption of the General Management Plan for the La Amistad International Park in Costa Rica and encourages the State Party of Panama to finalise the Management Plan for the Panamanian area of the property by mid-2021 to ensure protection is consistent across this contiguous transboundary area of the property, and requests the States Parties to submit these plans for review by the World Heritage Center and IUCN ;
5. Reiterating its position that any development of new hydropower projects prior to the finalization and adequate review of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the entire property would represent a danger to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property in line with Paragraph 180 of the *Operational Guidelines*, also welcomes that the construction project of the Changuinola II (CHAN II) dam has not been re-

activated to date and also notes the State Party's reaffirmed commitment to its obligations under the Convention and its confirmation that, should re-activation of the project be considered again, prior consultations with the World Heritage Centre would be undertaken;

6. Regrets that the SEA for the entire property was not completed in 2019 as requested by the Committee and also requests the States Parties to finalize the SEA for the entire property in 2021 and submit it to the World Heritage Centre, for review by IUCN, as soon as it becomes available and the latest by **1 February 2022**;
7. Further notes the efforts of the State Party of Panama to monitor activities of the CHAN I dam and the Bonyic dam, and further requests the State Party to continue these efforts to establish long-term monitoring programmes for the projects, and use the findings to design appropriate mitigation measures to ensure the OUV of the property is not negatively impacted, and consider the monitoring processes and findings into the overall SEA for the entire property;
8. Requests furthermore the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2022**, an updated joint report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 46th session in 2023.

#### **198. Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) (N 1290)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add

#### **199. Canaima National Park (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of) (N 701)**

See Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B.Add



### III. OMNIBUS

As part of its functions and within the Reactive Monitoring process, each year the World Heritage Committee examines the state of conservation of a number of selected properties, inscribed on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and those that are under threats (see Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*). To this effect, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prepare detailed reports on the state of conservation (“SOC reports”) of those properties which are presented for examination to the Committee.

On the basis of these reports, the World Heritage Committee decides, in consultation with the State Party concerned and as per Paragraph 24 of the *Operational Guidelines*, whether additional measures are required to protect the property.

However, after a careful review of the state of conservation reports submitted by the States Parties concerned, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are of the view that, in a number of cases, the requests made by the World Heritage Committee to the State Party have been responded to in a satisfactory manner by the authorities concerned and/or adequate measures have been taken (for example, a comprehensive Management Plan for the property has been finalized or a development project potentially affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the property has been cancelled) and that the property can therefore no longer be considered under threat.

In this sense, and in the context of the ever-growing workload of the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies consider that it is not necessary to present yet another detailed SOC report for examination by the World Heritage Committee but rather a brief summary of the progress achieved for the conservation of such properties, which can therefore be removed from the Reactive Monitoring process.

With Draft Decision **44 COM 7B.200** proposed below, the World Heritage Committee is therefore invited to note with satisfaction that its requests have been addressed by the States Parties concerned and that in the judgment of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties listed below is no longer under threat.

As a result, no further report on the state of conservation of these properties is required in the future, unless in the event of a new threat or development at the property.

## **CULTURAL PROPERTIES**

### **ASIA-PACIFIC**

#### **The Great Wall (China) (C 438)**

The State Party has continued its work implementing the Master Plan of the Great Wall 2018-2035, following its approval by the State Council of China, and has launched the National Culture Park of the Great Wall. The State Party’s efforts also included on-site conservation activities, capacity building for conservation professionals, a consolidation of the legal basis for the conservation of the property, research and training activities, public outreach activities, and the active use of new technologies for conservation. The State Party has also continued its cooperation with the State Party of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: in November 2019, the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage and Historic England jointly published *Wall-to-Wall Dialogue: the Collection of Papers on the Symposium on the Conservation and Management of the Hadrian’s Wall and the Great Wall of China*, as a result of the second ‘Wall-to-Wall Dialogue’ (9-13 November 2019). On 5 October 2020, the States Parties co-organised an international Online Symposium on the Presentation and Interpretation of the Hadrian’s Wall and the Great Wall of China, co-hosted by Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture and Newcastle University.

In response to the Committee's Decision **43 COM 7B.58**, Paragraph 10, which urged the State Party "to ensure that the potential impacts arising from increased visitation are addressed [...] [and to] take all necessary measures to mitigate the impacts of mass tourism on the property [...] [and] minimize the cumulative impacts of tourism infrastructure on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property", the State Party has reported that several measures have been taken to ensure sustainable tourism in the Badaling Section, including the establishment of a daily optimum carrying capacity of 65,000 visitors since 1 June 2019, the introduction of an online ticket booking system, and an early warning response system to enable real-time management responses. These carrying capacities and visitation numbers may need to be adjusted according to the post-COVID-19 rules and regulations.

As requested by the Committee in Decision **41 COM 7B.86**, the State Party has also submitted a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Beijing-Zhangjiakou High-Speed Railway, which started operating at the end of 2019. The HIA indicates that the high-speed railway does not have any negative impact on the property or the landscape environment of the Badaling Section.

As indicated in previous decisions, the State Party is invited to comply fully with the requirements of Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the OUV of a property, before any decisions are made that would be difficult to reverse.

## **NATURAL PROPERTIES**

### **AFRICA**

#### **Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)**

The State Party has continued its efforts in terms of improving the surveillance mechanism and the ecological monitoring of the property, strengthening the human and technical capacities of the management team of the property, enforcing the laws, and effectively involving neighboring communities in the management of the property. In response to decision **43 COM 7B.32** of the World Heritage Committee, efforts have been made to eradicate intrusion of livestock inside the property, reduce conflict with farmers/stock breeders, rehabilitate some degraded areas, improve income for producers and thus limit the extension of cashew plantations. The creation of local Committees managing agro-pastoral facilities has also contributed to improving the participatory management of the natural resources on the periphery of the property.

The State Party has firmly committed to eradicating mining within the property by deploying regular foot and motorized patrols with air support. In this context, the extent of human pressures that made it difficult to restore and improve the population of large mammal species is gradually being reduced, in line with performance indicators established in the management plan (2015-2024). The results of the aerial inventories (2014, 2016 and 2019) confirm that there is a better control of major pressures such as transhumance, an increase in the numbers of large fauna and the gradual recolonization of the entire property by animal species representative of the park.

Lastly, the confirmation by the State Party that no mining project is currently underway in the immediate vicinity of the property, and the assurance that the social and environmental impact assessments of all future mining projects or other infrastructure development projects will take into account the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are positive developments. As indicated in previous decisions, the State Party is invited to fully comply with the requirements of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and inform the World Heritage Centre in good time of any major development project that may have a negative impact on the OUV of the property before any irreversible decision is taken. Finally, the final clarification concerning minor boundary modifications to the property should be coordinated with the World Heritage Centre in consultation with IUCN.

## **Taï National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 195)**

The State Party has continued to implement the Development and Management Plan, and the Business Plan of the property in conjunction with other specific operational tools for the key functions of the management of the property. The ecological monitoring programme has served to confirm the positive trend observed for species that are characteristic of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and in relation to the protection measures available for them. Furthermore, the involvement of communities in the management of the property has also been improved through their active participation in the various consultation frameworks. Initiatives aimed at empowering communities have been developed with the support of development partners, namely the German Technical Cooperation and the World Bank. In the framework of strengthening the livelihoods of local communities the property is also supported by the forestry investment project with USD 1 million for income-generating activities for the benefit of communities.

In general, the management of the property is considered efficient but could be strengthened with regard to two main threats, poaching and small-scale gold mining, which continue to affect the property. In this context, the State Party has put in place an almost permanent surveillance with alternating teams since 2013. The surveillance system was also strengthened with the use of drones and satellite imagery. The analysis of surveillance data using a Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in 2020 indicated that 63% of illegal mining sites visited by patrols were abandoned.

In response to decision **43 COM 7B.31** of the World Heritage Committee, the State Party submitted on 11 March 2021 a request for a minor revision of the boundaries of the property in accordance with Decree No. 2018-496 of 23 May 2018 formalizing the extension of the Taï National Park. This request will be assessed by IUCN for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session.

As indicated in previous decisions, the State Party is invited to fully comply with the requirements of Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines* and inform the World Heritage Centre in good time of any major development project that may have a negative impact on the OUV of the property before any irreversible decision is taken.

### **Draft Decision: 44 COM 7B.200**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/21/44.COM/7B,*
2. *Takes note with satisfaction of the measures taken by the States Parties concerned to address its previous requests to mitigate the threats on the Outstanding Universal Value of the following World Heritage properties:*
  - *The Great Wall (China) (C 438)*
  - *Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 227)*
  - *Taï National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) (N 195)*
3. *Encourages the States Parties concerned to pursue their efforts to ensure the conservation of World Heritage properties;*
4. *Recalling the benefits to States Parties of systematically utilizing Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in the review of development projects, encourages States Parties to integrate the EIA/HIA processes into legislation, planning mechanisms and management plans, and reiterates its recommendation to States Parties to use these tools in assessing projects, including assessment of cumulative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of properties, as early as possible and before any final decision is taken;*

5. *Reminds the States Parties concerned to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.*